



Coldean

Community & Church Magazine

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Thank you for your support of the Coldean Food Bank.

We would just like to say a massive thank you to all of the people that continuously donate to the food bank. It is much appreciated as the foodbank seems to grow on a weekly basis and without this support, we would not be able to continue. We were able to give out lovely Christmas bags to all our clients again which gave so much pleasure.

Very best wishes from Erica and all the volunteers xx



Harvest Festival donations for the Food Bank October 2023.

From the Vicarage - February 2024

Dear Friends,

The snowdrops are nodding but standing firm in the rain this morning and as the clouds move along between downpours the light catches the raindrops just clinging to the flowers like small teardrops. The simple beauty of this causes me to stop, to pause and give thanks for the peace and beauty that is all around us in this village and I marvel at the strength of this small flower, withstanding the force and weight of the water pouring down upon and then lifting their heads to stand tall as soon as the storm has passed.

I reflected upon this as I walked over to the church this morning for the first parish mass of lent and I thought of the people, nations and communities that would be awaking to not only the abysmal weather but to the downpour of missiles and then my mind travelled to the plight of creation. The destruction that takes place day by day, caused by humanity in its greed for the biggest, the best, the fastest and destroying at the same time this our gift from God. A gift that was meant to bring joy and beauty, a gift that was meant to feed every person on this earth, to support every living creation, a gift that was meant to nurture us and be nurtured by us and now is dying before our eyes all because of our greed.

Now, I know that by the time you read this Lent will be a distant memory, but that should not stop us from planning how we can make a difference. War is a difficult problem to solve and has been with us from the beginning of time, but we can love, serve, share, and pray for all who are caught up in its web of violence and deceit.

If we can begin to build our new future this Lent for peace, humankind, and creation, what an achievement that would be, and it is vital that we do something to leave something for the coming generations to enjoy.

All this following an encounter with a snowdrop in the rain!

I am not sure what you may have pledged to do this year for the sake of our brothers and sisters or for the world we live in. It does not need to be a huge gesture because if we all work together every small effort will build into one that is as big and glorious as the love of God for us his children.

We are made in Gods image, and we are made to work together for the good of every people and for creation. We can make a difference to the world in the way that we live and in the way that we love.

So, I pray that every one of us will show the strength and resilience of the snowdrops, and that we may stand tall and proud to be part of this wonderful world that we share.

I hope that we will see you sometime over Easter at any event taking place at the church. Everyone is welcome in our church and to any of our events and if you would like to discuss your faith, your journey, a wedding or blessing, Christening, Confirmation, or Funeral we will do all that we can to help and support you. We are a community that does its best to love and nurture all, we support LLF (living in love and faith), and we believe that we are all equal in the love of God.

May you and those you love be blessed always.

Revd. Betsy

St Mary Magdalen Church Services March to April 2024

10 Mar 2024	Mothering Sunday Service 10 a.m.
24 Mar 2024	Palm Sunday Service 10 a.m.
29 Mar 2024	Good Friday Childrens Messy Church 10 a.m.
29 Mar 2024	Good Friday Service 2 p.m.
31 Mar 2024	Easter Sunday Dawn Service 5.30 a.m.
31 Mar 2024	Easter Sunday Service 10.00 a.m.
14 Apr 2024	Annual Parochial Church Meeting 11 a.m.

St Mary Magdalen Church Activities March to June 2024

13 Mar 2024	Car Boot & Table Top Sale- to be confirmed.
23 Mar 2024	Quiz Evening 7.p.m.
14 Apr 2024	Charity Lunch for Young Carers 1 p.m.
12 May 2024	Charity Lunch for Christian Aid 1 p.m.
18 May 2024	Quiz Evening 7.p.m.
15 Jun 2024	St Mary Magdalen Summer Fair 12 noon – 2.30 p.m.

The End of An Era!

Who knew that when I was born, at home, in Saunders Hill, on a cold snowy afternoon in January 1956, that I would end up spending most of the rest of my life living in Coldean? Certainly not me!!

My mum and dad, Pat & Bob, were Council tenants at the time and I had an older sister named Pam. In 1960 my dad was given the opportunity to buy a house from the Council and he chose to buy a different house with more land in Ashburnham Drive. It was here that I spent my childhood and went to school. Marge Harris, lived a few doors down and remembers me growing up.

My parents were not religious and I never went to church as a child, other than when I was baptised as was pretty common in those days. My cousin, Ellen, who is one year younger than me, and I, were baptised on 10th March 1957 at St. Mary Magdalen Church. Ellen's mum, my Auntie Pat, lived in Twyford Road and I also had another Auntie Edie, who lived in The Roundway. It was nice to have my cousins living nearby.

At age 11, I went to Stanmer Secondary School and when I left at age 16 I got a job at American Express. When I was nearly 17, I met Alan at a disco in town. In those days we had to make arrangements to meet up on a set day at a certain time and place. You didn't have the convenience of picking up your mobile phone and saying 'where

are you?!' Not many people even had house phones then, although we were one of the lucky ones that did, so Alan was able to phone me at home from a phone box!

If you wanted to get married in the 1970's there were two options, either in church or at the local registry office. I had always wanted to get married in church so when we decided to marry in June 1976, we both had to meet with our respective priests to ask permission and make arrangements. As neither of us were practising Christians, we found the whole experience very nerve wracking and humbling. The priest who married us at St. Mary Magdalen was Fr. Oluseye Olumide. I remember him as being very kind and able to put us at our ease. I do not know for sure but think that it was probably Bess Tuppin who did the beautiful flower arrangements for us!

When we came out of the church, Alan's friends from judo had made a bridge of black belts for us to walk under!



After our honeymoon, Alan and I were lucky enough to find a flat to rent on the corner of Duke Street and Middle Street in town and spent the next 3 years enjoying the freedom of being able to go out in the evening and stagger home to bed instead of trying to get a taxi home! We were also fortunate enough to be able to save up a deposit for our first and only, (so far!) home in Ingham Drive, Coldean.

When, Elaine and Steven came along in March 1982 and May 1984 we made the conscious decision not to have them baptised because we wanted them to decide for themselves.

As we lived in a two bedroomed house, and had a girl and a boy, we tried to buy a 3 bedroomed house in Coldean but the sale dragged on for 6 months and eventually the vendors decided to take it off the market and put it back on again for an extra £6,000. This was a lot of money in those days and beyond our mortgage offer so we had to let our buyers down and stay put.

Although I was extremely upset at the time, this setback turned out to be a blessing as Alan and I ultimately made the decision to have plans drawn up to extend our 2 bedroomed house into a 4 bedroomed one adding 2 bedrooms, one with an ensuite, a large dining room and a second, much larger, front room. The original dining area was turned into a home office and later, a utility room. This meant that my children had a bedroom each and we could use the 4th bedroom as a games room complete with a pool table and darts board!

Now on to the part of the story that explains how I became a regular communicant at St. Mary Magdalen Church.

One day, when my children were playing in the garden, Reg and Sheila Neville came round and asked if they would be interested in coming to Sunday School. They said they would and so began a routine of taking them and their friends, Tanya, Richard and Colin to church on a Sunday morning, and collecting them after the service. This worked well to start with, however, as their involvement grew so did their pleas for us to go with them to see their participation in the readings,

plays, singing, etc. Anyhow, one thing led to another and my friend, Kim, and I ended up going to church on a regular basis. Our husbands did not!

The services were very foreign to me but as time went by I learnt to join in more, enjoyed singing the hymns and got involved with the fundraising side of things. I, was, however, still very reluctant to go up to the Altar for a blessing during Communion and stayed firmly put in my seat. I also found the handshaking at the Peace quite off putting and hated if anyone came in for a hug!! (and still do if I'm honest!)

The priest during this time was Fr. Paul Seaman and he quickly won us all over with his outgoing nature and cheeky smile. The children enjoyed an away trip to Micklepage with him and Helen Greenfield who was the Sunday School teacher at the time. John and Marjorie Phillips also played a huge part in their church lives, through Sunday School, an evening activities club and at the Summer Youth camps. I have lots of happy memories of the yearly nativities and was very proud when the children got up in church to sing, act and read.

During this time, the children made their own decision to be Baptised and Confirmed at the same time and I was happy to support them without having to make promises on their behalf.

Not long after, I was listening to Fr. Paul's sermon and something he said that day compelled me to get up for a blessing and I ultimately made the decision to come for Confirmation myself and have been a regular communicate at St. Mary Magdalen, ever since.

At this point we were now a family of 5 as Mark, our nephew, came to live with us when he was 15 after Alan's mum, who had been bringing him up, passed away. This is when we had to dismantle our games room, thankful that we had the extra space. I was now a mum of 3.

I look back on these days and remember the happy times we all had. There were lots of services, singing, fundraising events and parties that we all enjoyed. Robin Halls, a teaching student, came to play the

Organ for us and became our Musical Director, he was only young but very talented and was such an asset to our church. I was a member of the choir and thoroughly enjoyed leading the hymns with the singing group. We also made two tape recordings whilst he was here called Glimpses of Glory & God's Blessing. The latter of which was for Fr. Paul's leaving service.

I remember being very sad when Fr. Paul moved on and the same can be said of when his successors, Fr. Colin, Fr. Christopher and Rev. Rachel, who first came to us when she was a Deacon, did the same. When Rev. Betsy came to us I took a step back as I found the whole process of getting close to someone, only for them to leave, quite upsetting. (Sorry Betsy!)

During Fr. Colin's time we did a fantastic performance of Jerusalem Joy to raise money for some new hymn books. I remember Ron Brown, our long term Church Warden, playing the drums and his wife Audrey and Marion Framroze singing with us in the choir.

By this time, I was a fully fledged Christian. I was a member of the DCC, the PCC representative, Choir member, Chair of the Cornerstones Committee and at some point, took over producing the Monthly CCCN Magazine.

Mark, Elaine and Steven grew up, moved out, moved back and moved out again several times, with and without their extended families over the years, and we also took in lodgers for some extra income.

During Covid, we decided to try and take advantage of the reduced Stamp Duty to move but this attempt also failed as we were gazumped.

However, after 44 years of living in our current home, and a total of 65 years (for me) of living in Coldean, it is now time for us to downsize. We have always wanted to live nearer the beach and have found a lovely detached bungalow in Lancing within walking distance of the sea, shops and station which is ideal.

In closing I just want to say a big thank you and a fond farewell, on behalf of myself and Alan, to all of our friends and church family in Coldean. You have been an integral part of our lives and we will miss you. We will, however, keep in touch and I am sure that you haven't seen the last of us!

God Bless,

Mary Violet

Testimony from Debbie Annells — January 2024

I was very honoured to be invited to an inaugural probation Breakfast Club starting up at St Nicholas Church in the old city centre of Bristol. The Breakfast Club was the result of some induction training that I had given in March last year to some new Probation staff as part of my job with St Giles Trust, which is a part-time job. There, I had suggested Breakfast Clubs worked very well for Probationers. Miraculously, and as a result, Bristol Probation decided to set up a Breakfast Club in Bristol, and that was why they kindly offered the invitation to me. St Giles paid for me to attend.

My job with St Giles is a combination of mentoring people who are reporting at probation breakfast clubs in Brighton, Worthing and Crawley and other towns typically in Kent, Sussex and Surrey, which now takes up a lot of my time. We help numerous people on Probation with all sorts of issues in their lives. Our research shows that women on probation particularly and indeed most men have a much better experience of probation and a better outcome, where there are informal gatherings like these Breakfast Clubs where they can report for probation and get help from the many services and agencies that are there for example the NHS outreach teams (typically for services for the homeless and those with mental health issues), drug and addiction recovery services, Housing and other Council related services and the many other charities providing counselling or well-being type services for people who have been referred by probation. Many of these are Court ordered services or

Courses, for example Building Better Relationships (i.e. to do with abuse) or work related practices.

It has been a very interesting experience to meet with and to help people at these breakfast clubs, many of whom are still my close friends. The help that I have been able to give has ranged from sorting out fines being levied on unpaid TV licences to helping someone to get their Portuguese passport replaced, with no identity documents in the UK, to completing job applications with the right disclosures of crimes and the related Disclosure letters, to general common sense advice for a number of people. Rearranging Pip assessments and obtaining other appointments, i.e. GP appointments, ID documents appointments etc and a lot of practical matters which Probationers just sometimes cannot handle either because they haven't got a telephone or laptop, or because they don't really know how to do it. Or they're too shy. There are a whole variety of issues and of course there are a growing number of asylum seekers and other people with immigration issues on probation as well. I had encountered such matters in Hong Kong where I lived before and it's interesting to me that very similar issues occur in the UK although they are more complex to sort out here, and Social Services in particular stands out here in the UK as a concern because they affect families here so drastically and often unnecessarily. Through St Giles I shall shortly be training on a national Workplace Chaplaincy course which will be useful for my Probation Chaplaincy role; I consider that my ministry. I felt called to Christian ministry in 2016, but more in the way of national outreach than within a parish. Of course, I do my best to help out with running events and services at Saint Mary Magdalen Church which is in my neighbourhood and where I was married in 1983 after our family moved into Coldean in 1971. Indeed, I consider St Mary Magdalen Church Coldean to be my spiritual home and it is very dear to me.

Additionally, I am very fortunate to also be studying a Master's degree, part-time, at St Augustine's College of Theology in Kent. My

subject is Theology, Ministry and Mission studying, to me, is also spiritual food and so interesting. Indeed, I have completed the Level 4 training which is the equivalent to a Reader's training and I'm now embarked in my second year of an M.A. My dissertation will be on Beauty, God and the Spirit, or something within that field, which is quite esoteric but also very interesting. Anyone is welcome to contact me in regard to any of these things involved in my ministry or indeed if you think that there's something that I could help with, or simply to pray together, in regard to your own life or your family's life (we often conduct prayers for people in need in the Breakfast Clubs). We have the right contacts and the right knowledge to assist on numerous matters within the Brighton area and indeed more nationally. Hopefully you are interested to know that this is going on from St Mary Magdalen Church by way of outreach.

God Bless!

Garden Birds

It has been a long time since I have put food out for birds in the garden mainly because birds were a temptation for my furry four-legged friends. During the cold spell we had before Christmas I thought I'd try again although not very hopeful we would have many visitors. At first only jackdaws came to look at the feeders hanging in a bush, but they could not reach the food, which was my plan.

It was a few days before I noticed some of the fat balls had been nibbled so watched carefully and much to my surprise sparrows were pecking at the food. I haven't seen sparrows in the garden for many years and was pleased with the little visitors. Having added feeders containing meal worms and suet pellets, the sparrows were followed by bluetits and robins which is strange because robins usually feed on the ground. The next birds to visit were starlings, another bird that we have not seen in our garden for years. Mr and Mrs Blackbird came along and found plenty of food that had fallen under the bush for, like robins, they mainly look for food on the ground. Just to help them I

put few mealworms under the bush hoping pigeons do not find them. So far so good.

Magpies and Jackdaws unable to get to the food in the bush watch from local roof tops or a tree in a neighbouring garden.

Once, and only once a day, I put bread, suet and mealworms for the jackdaws and magpies on the bird table. Immediately I return indoors the jackdaws descend in a black mass of flapping wings and the food is eaten in a few minutes. Sometimes the magpies manage to get something but they are a little larger than jackdaws and do not find it so easy to perch on the bird table, although they try. For them and the ponderous wood pigeons I throw suet pellets between the raspberry canes.



I have never bought so much bird food as I have since Christmas, however I enjoy watching the birds and the fat wood pigeons make me laugh at the way they strut around looking very important.

Marjorie Phillips

When did Brighthelmstone became Brighton?

This name has evolved through Bristelmestune (1086), Brichtelmeston (1198), Brighthelmeston (1493), Brighthemston (1610) and Brighthelmston (1816).

"Brighton" was originally an informal shortened form, first seen in 1660; it gradually supplanted the longer name and was in general use from the late 18th century, although Brighthelmstone remained the town's official name until 1810.



The map above drawn in 1788 shows roads to London via Steyning and Lewes but no direct road as there is today via Patcham.

When did Brighton become Brighton and Hove in 1997.

The towns of Brighton and Hove formed a unitary authority in 1997 and were granted city status by Queen Elizabeth II in 2001. Many locals still consider the two to be separate towns.

Here are a few fun facts about our city.

Brighton was the backdrop to ABBA's Eurovision success. Most people don't know that when the Swedish band ABBA won the Eurovision song contest with 'Waterloo' in 1974, it was in Brighton! The event was held at the Brighton Dome concert hall, still a popular arts venue today.

Brighton borders the UK's newest national park. Another fact which visitors to the UK may not know is that although Brighton is a coastal city, you only need to travel 10 minutes outside of the city to reach the South Downs.

Brighton is home to Britain's oldest cinema. A well-known landmark in Brighton is the historic Duke of York's cinema – it's reputed to be the oldest cinema in continuous use in Britain, and offers cosy, theatre-esque surroundings in which to watch the latest releases and re-runs of the all-time classics.

Brighton is home to a well-loved fictional detective. Detective Inspector Roy Grace is the main character in a series of crime novels by best-selling author Peter James. All of the books are set in and around Brighton, and so far the novels have been published in over 30 different languages!

Many actors, musicians and other public figures have lived in Brighton. Today Brighton is considered a very desirable place to live, and walking around you may recognise some famous faces! Brighton's creative vibe has always attracted artists, actors and musicians in particular, with Sir Paul McCartney, Nick Cave, Adele, Noel Gallagher, Fat Boy Slim, and even Hollywood actress Cate Blanchett all having owned homes in Brighton at some point or other. Speaking about Brighton, Cate Blanchett is quoted as saying, 'I miss Brighton enormously, enormously. There is so much I miss, including rain. I miss the verdant countryside.'

Brighton has the nickname of 'London by Sea'. Brighton first became fashionable amongst day-trippers and holidaymakers from London in the late 1700s, when the then Prince of Wales, who became King George IV, became a regular visitor. The palace he built, a beautiful Indian and Oriental inspired building called the Royal Pavilion, is one of England's most unique landmarks.

The Brighton Sea Life Centre is the world's oldest aquarium, dating back to 1872. With over 100 species, including sharks and stingrays, and vast tanks of local and tropical marine life, there is plenty to discover. You can also walk through England's longest underwater observation tunnel!

Brighton has tunnels beneath it! Brighton is rumoured to have numerous lost tunnels but there is one from the Royal Pavilion to the museum and Dome today which you can still see. This was reputedly so the Prince Regent could move about Brighton without people seeing how overweight he had become!

John Phillips

Make a Smile Brighton

Make a Smile is a charity set up to help bring joy and magic into the lives of children with disabilities or illnesses by dressing up as their favourite characters. Make a Smile Brighton is looking for volunteers to be characters and dress up in the costumes that they will provide.

We are also looking for people to be "magic



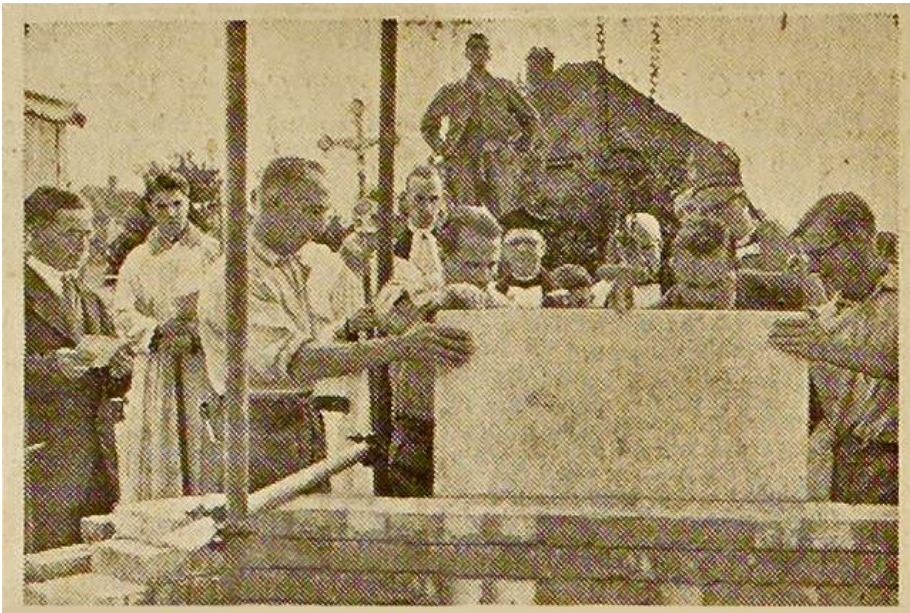
makers' who attend events out of character and act as supporting staff to help those in character.

If you are interested in volunteering or want to book us for events, please look on our website makeasmile.org.uk, our Instagram or facebook [makeasmilebrighton](https://www.instagram.com/makeasmilebrighton) or email us at brighton@makeasmile.org.uk. We would love for you to join the team!

Rhianna Goodyear

The New St Cuthman's Church at Whitehawk

People remembered that the Church was originally white, but during the Second World War the church building was bombed. Significantly sticking out of the rubble was the large crucifix which had hung inside the church at the front. This was subsequently put into the next church building which was completed in 1952 and dedicated in 1953.



The foundation stone of the new St. Cuthman's Church, Whitehawk, was laid on Saturday 14 July 1951 by Mr. C. A. Wilson.

The service was conducted by the Bishop of Lewes assisted by the Vicar of Brighton and the Vicar of St. Cuthman's (Rev. J. J. Smith).

A report from The Brighton Herald reads "A large, graceful building has arisen in the centre of the Whitehawk Council Estate—the new Church of St Cuthman's, to replace the old church, bombed in the war.

The new building, designed by Mr John L. Denman, is entirely different in appearance from the old St, Cuthman's. The main entrance is from Twineham Road and Lintott Avenue, which does away with the need for the long flight of steps which was a feature of the old church.

Almost nine years after a bomb reduced St Cuthman's Church to rubble, a new church was built, and there was an impressive service of Consecration on Saturday the 14th June 1952.

The consecration ceremony of the new St, Cuthman's was performed by the Bishop of Chichester (Dr. G. K. A. Bell), and a week of church activities followed.

Services were conducted by the Bishop of Lewes (the Rt. Rev. Geoffrey H. Warde) and the Bishop of Woolwich (the Rt Rev. R. William Stannard).

While workmen were completing the fabric of the building, the vicar (the Rev. J. J. Smith), with Miss J. Stanley, was busy at work on the enamelling and paintwork of the altar.

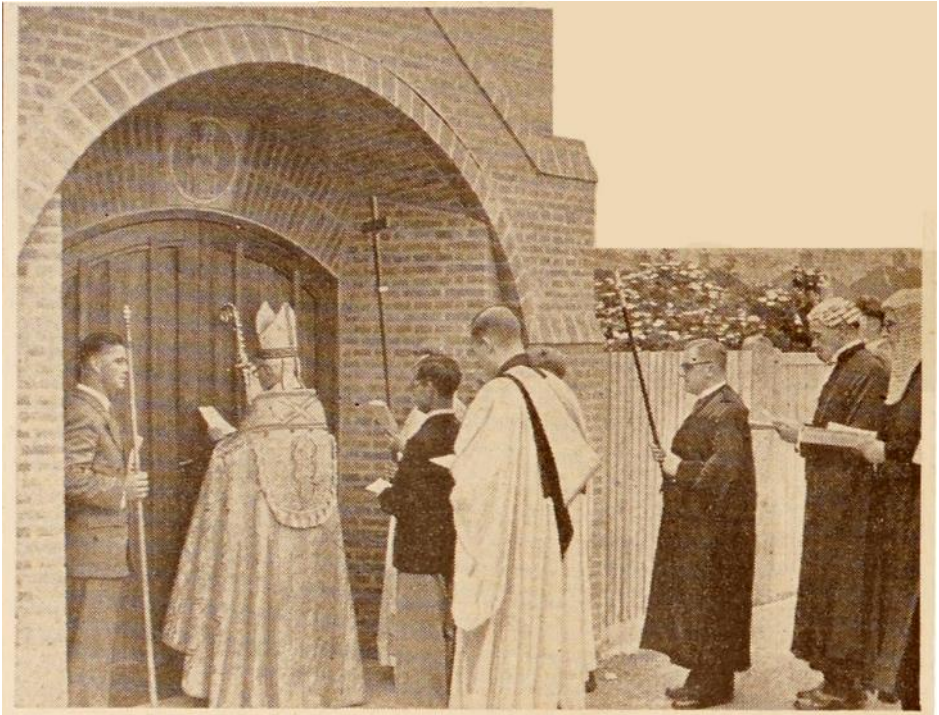
The new church cost £15,386, with a hall beneath the building three times the size of the old one. Seating and stained-glass windows from St. James's Church, now demolished, were installed".

After paying tribute to the way the people of Whitehawk stood the strain of the war years. Dr. Bell said the rebuilding of the bricks and timber of St. Cuthman's is a symbol of the rebuilding of the nation's life on spiritual foundations.

"It is a challenge for all here to go out and tell Whitehawk people of the true foundations of life and the kinship of God." he added, "Devastation and world suicide lie ahead unless nations change their minds and the hearts of men within the nations are transformed."

The Prime Minister, said Dr. Bell, had sounded the alert, which is also an alarm, by saying that the peril we face today is as grave as that which faced the country during the war.

"These words are relevant to most aspects of our life and the hard truth is that the peril we face today cannot be overcome on the material plane," said Dr. Bell, "It is the spiritual transformation for which this church stands which is indispensable."



Photograph from the Brighton Herald on 21 June 1952.

Lintott Avenue was just to the south of St Cuthman's Church and was removed in the reconfiguration of the Whitehawk estate in 1973.

A footpath now runs down the slope where Lintott Avenue once ran from Whitehawk Way to Cooksbridge Road.



St Cuthman's Church viewed from Whitehawk Way in February 2011.



St Cuthman's Church of the Nave towards the Altar in February 2011.



St Cuthman's Church view of Lady Chapel in February 2011.

Church Photographs © Bevendean History Group.

Plans for a Church Hall next door to the church were approved on the 6th November 1962.

The church hall was sold to the Whitehawk Community Association in 1982 to become the Valley Social Centre. It has subsequently been altered and expanded.

John Phillips

Prayer Meetings at St Mary Magdalen Church

These are held on the first Saturday of the month starting at 10:00 a.m., held in the Church Hall, all are welcome.

It is a time when one can share about what faith means and what one feels are about life.

We have a scripture reading on which we have a discussion about what it means personally, and concludes with a time of prayer which

includes what has made us think and feel is a concern about life as a whole.

There is also a breakfast available.

Reg Neville

Our Own Muddle

As we follow you Lord, we do struggle, like others lord, who are in a muddle.

It's not too hard to follow thee, especially Lord as you have already set us free.

We are good at complicating matters, our hopes and dreams, we do just shatter.

Your teachings Lord, are plain to see but we fail to learn dear Lord from thee, instead we always, ask for more, of these earthly gifts.

We need to settle, as less, is more, we know, you are knocking at our door.

We need to open and let you in, then dear lord your work will begin to save us all from earthly sin.

We know dear lord you're always right, so why, oh why do we fight.

We know you'll win in the end, the struggle we have is such a plight.

It is to ourselves we give a fright when we do fight. We need to accept that we are wrong and start to sing your heavenly Song.

To work together, we must do, because your way Lord we know is true.

Paul Simmons

The History of Schools in Brighton

The earliest known school in the town appears to have been in existence in 1581 when William Cartwright was licensed as a schoolmaster by the Bishop of Chichester. In 1665 a 'freeschoole' was

recorded, and in 1702 the Rev Anthony Springett founded a free school in the Bartholomews but it ceased at an unknown date. In 1769 another free school was founded in what is now Meeting House Lane, opposite Union Street, by the bequest of William Grimmett, a former Springett pupil. Springett's School itself was revived in 1805, and these two free schools amalgamated in 1818 as a National School which moved to a new building in Church Street in 1829, the Central National Schools.

Another early school was the Union Charity School in Middle Street. The boys' school was established in 1807 by Edward Goff and was joined by a girls' school in 1809. Both were supported by public subscription and children of all denominations were taught. These schools were later taken over by the school board and then the corporation, but were demolished in February 1973 and replaced by the Middle Street Primary School.

Many proprietary schools for the wealthy were established in the nineteenth century and Brighton was even dubbed 'School Town', but a minority of poor children went to charity schools such as the National and Union Schools mentioned above

Many churches established elementary day schools for poor children in addition to Sunday schools. These included Belgrave Street Chapel (1863); St Bartholomew, Providence Place (1872); St John, Carlton Hill (1870); St Martin (1875) St Martin's Street, St Mary Magdalene (1871) Upper North Street, St Paul (1877) Little Russell Street, 1924 Russell Place, and St Stephen, Borough Street (1855).

The 1870 Education Act established local 'school boards', bodies elected by the ratepayers of the district to control public elementary schools for children aged five to ten; a small weekly fee was chargeable unless the parents were very poor. Religious education was taught, but not in the views of any particular Christian denomination; there were, however, continual disagreements between the clerical and lay members of the board. Elementary

education was made compulsory in 1880 and was provided free from 1891. The School Boards of Brighton and Preston were united in 1881.

Upon its foundation, the Brighton School Board immediately took control of the Puget Schools in Clarence Yard, a school in Circus Street, and schoolrooms at Belgrave Street Chapel and London Road Chapel (Belmont Street). It also took over the Middle Street Schools in 1874, and erected many new schools buildings over the next thirty years to the design of its architect, Thomas Simpson.



The National School on Church Street dated November 1831.

Text under the image reads 'To the Revd H. M. Wagner Vicar of Brighton.'

In addition, the board took over a disused workhouse at Chailey as an industrial school for truants in 1875, but opened a new truant school at Purley Lodge in Old London Road, Patcham, in 1882. Together with the London School Board, the Brighton and Preston United School

Board built another industrial school at Mile Oak Road, Portslade, in 1902. This school was used by Brighton until 1913.

Following the 1902 Education Act the education committee of the county borough council took over all responsibility for public elementary, secondary and technical education in the town, including the church schools, on 1 April 1903, but charges for secondary education were maintained (with one quarter of places provided free from 1907) until the 1944 Education Act was passed.

On 1 April 1974, under the terms of the 1972 Local Government Act, East Sussex County Council became the local education authority and put into effect the county borough council's decision to change to comprehensive education over a period of several years from September 1975. Grammar schools were abolished and secondary education was concentrated on seven 'high schools', while more advanced teaching was concentrated at the new 'sixth-form colleges'.

Several special schools cater for handicapped and remedial pupils including Patcham House, Old London Road (the former village National School); and Queensdown and Uplands Schools in Lynchet Close, Hollingdean. Hamilton Lodge, Walpole Road (for the deaf 1945); and Ovingdean Hall, these schools are voluntary or independent special schools. Several of these have now closed or are known by a different name and some have moved to new locations.

'School Town' was the nickname for Brighton in Victorian times. The health resort attracted dozens of small private boarding schools for gentlemen and ladies. Groups of pupils promenaded the seafront in their Sunday best, shepherded by tutors, on the way to church. Roedean, the famous girls' school, was established in Lewes Crescent in 1885.

In 2000, Brighton and Hove Council ran 48 schools. The tradition of private seafront schools still flourishes, but nowadays for foreign students learning English.

John Phillips

Hedgehogs are good for your garden



Hedgehogs are a gardener's friend, as they eat beetles, caterpillars, worms and other invertebrates. They are recognized by their spines, which are hollow hairs made stiff with keratin. Their spines are not poisonous or barbed and, unlike the quills of a porcupine, do not easily detach from their bodies. Hedgehogs are usually brown, with pale tips to the spines, though blonde hedgehogs are found on the Channel Island of Alderney.

Hedgehogs roll into a tight spiny ball when threatened, tucking in the furry face, feet, and belly. The hedgehogs back contain two large muscles that direct the quills.

Hedgehogs are primarily nocturnal, and sleep for a large portion of the day under bushes, grasses, rocks, or most commonly in dens dug underground.

Hedgehogs are fairly vocal, with a variety of grunts, snuffles and or squeals. The hedgehog was originally called the urchin. This led to the naming of sea urchins.

The hog in hedgehog comes from the small snorting sound they make. When hedgehogs go out to forage, they can travel up to two miles, that is a long way for little legs!

There are 17 different species of hedgehog in the world, the one which lives in the UK is the West-European hedgehog or *Erinaceus europaeus*.

Hedgehogs spend much of their life sleeping, hibernating from November to March in a nest made of fallen leaves.

Hedgehogs are 20 to 25 centimeters long and are approximately the same weight as a pineapple.

Hedgehogs are good runners, great climbers and can even swim.

Hedgehogs are usually solitary, but when together are called a prickle.

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