



Coldean

Community & Church Magazine

Autumn 2024

Price £1



A Passion Flower with 10 petals, 8 of which are clearly visible

Parish Contacts

St Mary Magdalen Church

Rev Betsy Gray-Hammond 01273 601 854

Churchwardens

John Phillips 01273 683 835

Paul Simmons 01273 725 368

Treasurer

John Phillips 01273 683 835

Hall Secretary

Victoria Rich 07923 929 703

st.marymag.hall.bookings@gmail.com

Magazine Editor

John Phillips 01273 683 835

jrp44bevendean@gmail.com

From the Vicarage - October 2024

Dear Friends,

Hasn't the weather changed quickly? And hasn't it been odd this year.

Early sunshine in May and then the opener for general chitchat went along the lines of:

"Gosh, it is so hot"

"I cannot sleep at night it doesn't cool down"

And then in the blink of an eye sometimes only hours later followed days of:

"Where did this lot come from?"

"If we get much more of this rain, we will all be walking like ducks!"

There was even a rumour that I was building a very large boat in my back garden. By the way, has anyone seen a boa constrictor anywhere, he was on deck a minute ago?

But, all jokes to one side, we are of course entering a season that slows down the growth of trees, plants, grass and yes, even the bindweed is beginning to lose its grip on our gardens. However, this is the time of year when we celebrate creation, the food it provides, the beauty as the colours reflect the hues of a golden sunset, and the creatures around us begin to prepare for winter. This is also the time when we should be looking to God to thank Him for all of these gifts and more beside.

This year we need to think seriously about what we are going to do to help to heal the damage that we (yes, all of us) have done to the world around, how can we prevent the demise of this beautiful planet?

Is this something that you would like to explore more as a community. I know I would.

Can we share more, perhaps if you have had a bumper harvest of fruit or vegetables you could offer it to the foodbank or to your neighbour. Could we share a journey to save taking out two cars. Could we help people to source and fit rain water barrels, begin composting, wormeries (I would love one of these) there must be all sorts of things we can do.

The only things I seem to have shared my fruit and veg with this year are slugs and snails, who ate all of the broccoli, cabbage, bean plants I had so carefully nurtured and then planted out... they lasted all of 48 hours!

And now to add insult to injury the squirrels have decimated the winter pansies, pulling them up in broad daylight right in front of me, they really have no shame.

I hope and pray that your garden attempts have been far more successful than mine and that your barn (freezer) is full of good food for the coming winter months. Just spare a prayer for those who have little and thank God for his goodness before you sit and eat your meals.

A quick quote from C.S Lewes that means so much to me:

“Nature never taught me that there exists a God of glory and of infinite majesty. I had to learn that in other ways. But nature gave the word glory a meaning for me. I still do not know where else I could have found one.”

Keep an eye out for notices and posts (FB) about coming events in the parish, we look forward to seeing you.

May Gods blessings pour upon you and those you love today and always

Love and Prayers,

Revd. Betsy

St Mary Magdalen Church Activities Oct to Dec 2024

13 Oct 2024	Pet Blessing Service 4 p.m. – to be confirmed
20 Oct 2024	SAMS Memorial Service – to be confirmed
10 Nov 2024	Remembrance Sunday Charity Lunch 1 p.m.
16 Nov 2024	Quiz Evening 7 p.m.
6 Dec 2024	St Mary Magdalen Christmas Market 6 p.m.
15 Dec 2024	Charity Lunch for Children’s Society 1 p.m.
20 Dec 2024	Messy Church & Children’s Christingle 4 p.m.
22 Dec 2024	Carols by Candlelight 4 p.m.
24 Dec 2024	Midnight Mass 11.30 p.m.
25 Dec 2024	Christmas Morning 10 a.m.

The Passion Flower has a Christian Symbolism

The ten petals of the passion flower represent the ten apostles in Christianity excluding St. Peter and Judas. The vines of the plant symbolize the whips that were used during the flagellation of Christ. One of the major characteristics is the hundreds of filaments on the flower that symbolize the Crown of Thorns. The five anthers are associated with the five sacred wounds of Christ. The flower contains three stigmas that reflect the three nails that were used for Christ's hands and feet during his Crucifixion.

In terms of colour symbolism, the flowers of Passion Vines are generally a blue and white colour which can represent the heavens and purity.

John Phillips

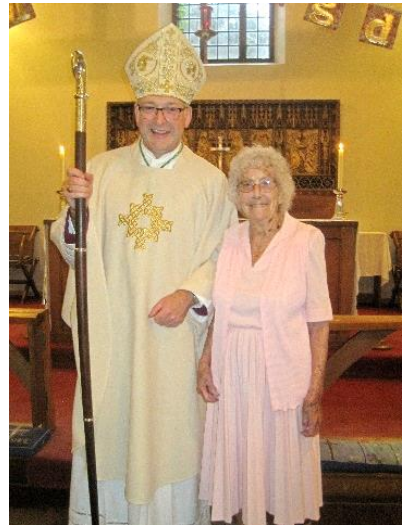
Patronal Festival with a Confirmation

On Monday the 22nd of July 2024 the Bishop of Lewes the Right Reverend William Hazelwood presided at the patronal festival for St Mary Magdalen Church. He also confirmed Mary Yvonne Emery into the Church of Christ.

Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptized.

If you were baptized at a Christening when you were a child, your parents and godparents made these promises on your behalf.

As a young person or adult, you may be ready to affirm these



Bishop Will & Mary Emery

promises for yourself and commit your life to following Jesus Christ.

At a Confirmation service, you make these promises for yourself. Your friends and family as well as the local Christian community will be there to promise to support and pray for you.

The bishop also blessed the memorial stone in the memorial garden and later with Mary cut a cake at the celebration party which followed the service.



Bishop Will & Mary cutting the cake

WW2 Auxiliary Units & Jack Allcorn of Lower Bevendean

In the spring of 1940 Britain was in trouble. German panzer divisions had driven into France and she surrendered. British troops had escaped from Dunkirk by the skin of their teeth. Churchill became Prime Minister on May 10th and on the 14th the Local Defence Volunteers were formed and issued with arm bands with VDU on them. They were unkindly referred to as the Look, Duck and Vanish brigade. This was soon changed to the more forceful Home Guard. Jack Allcorn who lived at Lower Bevendean Farm joined as soon as he could and was then issued with a rifle.

The Battle of Britain began in July 1940. If we had lost this battle, invasion would have been inevitable. Hitler was already gathering barges in Holland. Faced with this possibility, Churchill ordered the formation of two organisations to be known by the deliberate bland sounding name of Auxiliary Groups. One group was to carry on as normal in the event of invasion, but to have radios to report on enemy

troop movements. This group included women. The other group were to be well armed and have underground bunkers from which they would emerge at night and attack the enemy from behind. It was so secret that neither group knew of the others existence and all participants had to swear to the Official Secrets Act. Many of the people involved were farmers and gamekeepers as they knew how to shoot and knew the local area where they lived.



An example of an Auxiliary Units base as set out in a museum.

As a normal Home Guard, Jack Allcorn was issued with a rifle, then one day he came home with a Sten gun. A nasty looking semi-automatic machine gun. Norman Allcorn, his son also remembers him using ashes to 'black up' before going on night patrol. Many years later, Norman said, "we were talking as a family about the war. My father started to say something but my mother shut him up.

'Remember the Official Secrets Act' she said and he remained silent on that subject.



A Sten Gun from World War 2.

Norman never thought to ask again and his mother died in 1980 and his father in 1988. Amongst his effects was a small lapel badge less than an inch high. It had 202 with a line through it like it had been crossed out. Norman had no idea what it was and threw it away!

Norman wrote, "time passed and about ten years ago I came across a book called "The Secret Sussex Resistance" by Stewart Angell. In this book is an illustration of the very badge that I had thrown away. The line through it denoted that they would operate part over ground and part underground. I got in touch with Mr. Angell who was very cynical as to whether my father was an Auxiliary. He claimed to have traced every man who had been a member, but I knew what I had seen. He gave a map of all known Patrols and there was a gap to the east of Brighton, with the nearest being Rodmell or Cooksbridge, which I thought was too far away.

In 2023 through Facebook, I saw a post about another member of a local Auxiliary Unit. This provided an email for the British Resistance Archive. I emailed them and got a positive response. They thought

that my father was in the Rodmell Patrol and the reason that he was not recorded was because he had moved from Lower Bevendean before the roll was taken in 1942. The other members of the Rodmell Patrol were quite widely spread. The Sergeant was Frank Seymour Dean from Balsdean (blacksmith). Others were from Arundel Road Brighton, Kingston, Iford. Telscombe and Northese. Their occupations were mostly agricultural but one was a Hotel Manager and another a retired Police Officer”.

Norman believes that Jack Allcorn must have kept in touch with his old comrades to have got his badge. An Auxiliary Unit Badge is shown on the right.



They were happy to record him as being in the Rodmell Patrol and Norman was very happy to finally find out the truth.

Norman Allcorn

Tear Fund

Fr William Leaf is leaving the parish of Moulsecoomb at the end of September to work for Tearfund. He said recently, “Over the last years I have felt a real sense of the urgent call of God on my life - it feels like time is short and I sense the call to make the most of my life. Maybe it's because I'm getting older! Through many challenging situations I've found myself praying that prayer “God, what do you want from me?!” Have you ever prayed that prayer.



Tearfund was founded in 1971 by George Hoffman and the Evangelical Alliance.

It is an international Christian relief and development agency based in Teddington, UK, currently working in around 50 countries, with a

primary focus on supporting those in poverty and providing disaster relief for disadvantaged communities. The organisation believes that an end to extreme poverty is possible.

Thousands of people needlessly suffer and die every day because of poverty. But that's not God's plan for the world. And God is calling all of us to reach out to people in the greatest need.

The Mission of Tearfund is "to follow Jesus where the need is greatest, responding to crises and partnering with local churches and organisations to help people lift themselves out of poverty."

Tear Fund partners with local churches and organisations who have a crucial role to play in the places worst affected by poverty.

They work directly, and/or alongside local partners and churches, in underserved communities in more than 50 countries to tackle complex poverty in three main ways:

Humanitarian response.

Tear Fund responds quickly to disasters and conflicts, supporting those in greatest need through a recovery process.

Community Development.

This is the key to the organisation where working in partnership with local churches and organisations, mobilising resources and empowering communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

Advocacy and influencing.

They help individuals and churches speak out on issues of poverty and injustice, and they challenge unjust policies and practices at a local, national and global level.

At the financial year end, 31 March 2023, the income of the charity was £85 million.

The money raised at our Harvest Festival Lunch this year will be donated to Tearfund.

We wish Fr. Will well for the future.

John Phillips

Stanmer Church Wall Plaques and Memorials



Stanmer church was put up for sale in October 2022 by the Church Commissioners. Anyone interested in buying the property had to respond by the 28th of November 2022.

When visiting Stanmer Park on Saturday 31 August 2024, I noticed that scaffolding had been erected to give access to part of the roof. It would appear that someone has purchased the building and is preparing to make repairs to the roof of the church.

While looking for documents, at the Keep, about the history of the church I came across a reference to plaques fixed to the outside.

The original 14th century church was demolished in 1838 and rebuilt on the same site. The work started in March 1838 and was finished by the end of November 1839. It was rebuilt at a cost of £3,638-3s. and paid for by the 3rd Earl of Chichester, Henry Thomas Pelham.

There are three wall plaques which date from the 1700s, which was before the present church was built in 1839. They must have come from the original church building and been fixed on the walls of the new church once it was completed.

The surface of the tablets has deteriorated due to weathering. The clearest being to the Revd. Edward Bland, Rector of Stanmer Church.

Edward Bland was the Rector of Stanmer Church from 1727 to 1769 a total of 42 years.



The text reads: - Here Lyeth interr'd the Body of The Reverend Edward Bland M.A. 42 Years Rector of this Church.

A Clergyman of sound faith, unblemished Morals & an esteemed Character. Reverenced by Inferiors. Respected by Equals.

Beloved by the Great. Deceased October 17, A.D. 1769. Et 77. This Tomb was Erected by his niece Jane Fell.

The second tablet is to William Ridge.

The text reads: - To the memory of William Ridge. Formerly of this Parish. But late of St Michael in Lewes.

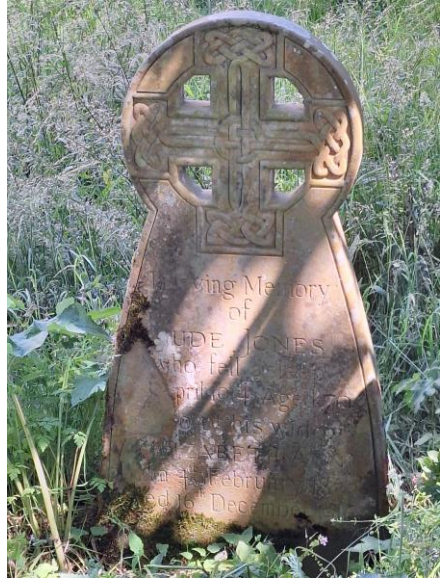
Who departed this life October 31st 1782, Aged 82 Years.

The third tablet is to Mr. Robert Speak.

The text reads: - Sacred to the memory of Mr. Robert Speak many Years a faithful Servant to the Right Honourable Lord Pelham who departed this left 1st April 1792 aged 82 Years.

The churchyard contains a gravestone to Jude Jones, shown on the right.

Jude Jones was the designated carpenter and estate foreman of the Earls of Chichester and also an active member of the church in the 19th century. He designed and constructed all the wooden fixtures in Stanmer Church.



Inscription on Grave Stone in Stanmer Church Grave Yard

In Loving memory of Jude Jones who fell asleep 17th April 1914 aged 70. Also, his widow Elizabeth Anne born 4th February 1833. Died 16th December 1916.

Tablet on the wall inside Stanmer Church

In Memory of Jude Jones. Born at Stanmer 1844 +. Died at Stanmer 1914.

For the greater part of his life a worshipper in this church. Member of the choir and churchwarden

Carpenter: Estate Foreman and trusted friend of 4 Earls of Chichester
"A MAN GREATLY BELOVED"

John Phillips

After the fall of Dunkirk, military defence became a prime requirement for the south of England including Newhaven Harbour.

The Navy requisitioned the Guinness Trust Holiday Home from 20 June 1940 and they remained there for the duration of the war.

The Guinness Trust property was built in 1938. It stood on Heighton Hill, looking down on the green meadows of the Ouse Valley, with views to Newhaven Harbour, Seaford Bay and the English Channel.

It was used as holiday accommodation for city-based tenants of the Guinness Trust estates and had 16 dormitory apartments with a communal dining room and sun lounge. Most apartments had access to a large sun terrace and lawn, and a private suite on the first floor housed a resident caretaker.

Under the title of HMS Forward, the Guinness Trust house became a Royal Naval headquarters. It was responsible for HMS Marlborough at Eastbourne, HMS Aggressive and HMS Newt at Newhaven, HMS Vernon at Roedean, HMS Lizard and HMS King Alfred at Hove and the two resident naval officers at Shoreham and Littlehampton.

Naval-stores depots were established at Lewes and Burgess Hill.

Numerous other large residential establishments were also requisitioned, both locally and at Seaford, to accommodate the WRNS (Women's Royal Naval Service). There were eventually over 10,000 naval staff on HMS Forward's ledgers.

A captain (often an admiral serving in the rank of captain) always commanded the naval headquarters. He occupied the conveniently appointed caretaker's suite.

In March 1941, the Admiralty required ports to establish and maintain naval plots in conjunction with a coastal-radar chain, giving surface coverage from the Dover area including Newhaven.

Security was required for the communications equipment to be used for intelligence gathering, interpretation and dissemination.

A decision was made to accommodate the equipment in a shelter more than 22 metres (some 66 feet) below ground, deep beneath Heighton Hill.



A view inside one of the tunnels following decommissioning of HMS Forward.

The principal operational entrance to the underground shelter was located in one of the rooms in the Guinness Trust Home. 122 steps led to an impenetrable fortress that contained the most sophisticated and contemporary communications devices then available.

There were two telephone exchanges, ten teleprinters, two Typex machines, these were British cipher machines used from 1937. The complex also had a wireless telegraphy office with 11 radios and a VF-line (voice-frequency) telegraph terminal. The tunnels housed a stand-by generator, an air-conditioning system with gas filters, a galley, toilets and cabins for split shifts.

Excavation of the tunnel commenced in May 1941, and some 550 metres (1,800 feet) of tunnel was dug in the chalk over 13 weeks. It was commissioned later that year and used until decommissioned on 31 August 1945.

Coastal-radar stations between Fairlight and Bognor Regis reported directly to HMS Forward every 20 minutes or more often if necessary. All their information was filtered and plotted, before being relayed by teleprinter to similar plots in Dover and Portsmouth.

During the 1970s, the hillside was redeveloped. All five internally accessed hillside pillboxes (including one cunningly disguised as a chicken shed, complete with hens) were demolished. Cable and ventilation shafts were also obliterated, leaving only the bricked-up western entrance as evidence of what lay beneath.

More information and pictures can be found in a book "The Secret Tunnels of South Heighton" written by Geoffrey Ellis published in 1996.

John Phillips

Family Visitors from Estonia

On Monday the 12th August, Perry, Harry and their mum Ann came from Tartu in Estonia, by car, plane, train and taxi to visit for a week.

When they arrived the boys immediately made themselves at home dashing upstairs to leave their luggage and get out their games.

The following day Ann took Perry and Harry to the pier which is always the first place the boys want to go. Afterwards while the two boys stayed on the beach or paddled, Ann went for a swim.

Dave and Alison came home from Sweden on Tuesday and joined us for dinner. The first thing Dylan told me was that they had got up at 4 a.m. (3 a.m. here) then remembered to say 'hello Nanny'. We had to get the garden table and chairs in from the garage so there was room for 9 people to sit down for dinner.

Ann went to look at the shops on Wednesday while the boys stayed at home doing their own thing. After lunch we met Dave, Alison, Dylan and Chloe at Knoll Park in Hove where the children ran off some of their energy and played on the swings and slides. Dinner was at Alison's house in Hangleton close to St Helen's Church.



Except for Dave, who had to work, we all went to The Centenary Park at Peacehaven on Thursday, pictured above.

There were lots of people there and it was lovely to see family groups sitting on blankets enjoying picnics even though it was cold and windy.



There are a number of sections of tree trunks with climbing handholds which Simon and Harry enjoyed climbing.

They all had several rides on the zip wire.



The park is, as it says, BIG, and fun was had by all. It was my turn to get dinner as Alison and I were taking it in turns to get meals, although she did most of work.

On Friday the grandchildren went to The Science Museum in London with their parents while John and I had a lazy day. The children loved travelling by both train and tube. It was an easy dinner when they got back. A selection of Pizzas were delivered.

Saturday, was the last full day for Ann and the boys with us. Ann took Harry into the town because he had not spent his holiday money at the Science Museum like the others. He found a complicated game and came home a happy boy. We took them to One Garden for lunch because Ann loves plants, although she cannot grow many outside because in winter, they have snow and temperatures of -20°C , and she has nowhere to put plants indoors to over-winter.

The afternoon was spent playing cricket on the green near Alison and Dave's home which the children enjoyed.



Simon and Harry playing cricket on the green below St Helen's Church in Hangleton. Alison is acting as wicketkeeper and Marjorie is sitting in the background watching the game. This was the first time the boys had played cricket and they both managed to hit the ball quite well.

The day ended with everyone sitting down at the table talking and eating a BBQ which Dave cooked for us.

On Sunday morning after a cooked breakfast, we took Ann and the boys to Brighton Station so they could catch a train to Luton Airport for their flight home.

Marjorie Phillips

Family Fun Day

On Saturday 7th of September St Mary Magdalen's held a Family Fun Day open to all with games, bouncy castle, art work, stories and the food was free. Of course, it depended on the weather and as we found out on the day it was a bit disappointing, however this did not stop the special time from happening it just meant certain activities were changed.



The children had a giant bouncy castle assault course to tackle, a range of craft activities, some soft play equipment was set up in the hall and there were a number of games including an egg and spoon race.



It was surprising how many families came and the whole day was very enjoyable, it was nice to see everyone enjoying each other's company and the children got on so well which on

these occasions you like to see for it is a time when the community comes together whereby Unity has its true meaning.

Reg told some stories and sang songs with the children.

The children enjoyed the ball pit in the hall.

Everyone was given a beefburger, hot dog or veggie option with salad and coleslaw at lunch time.

The afternoon concluded with tea, scones and cakes.

I am sure that this could be the start of more days like this to happen, it certainly was very special.

Reg Neville

Hit the Brakes

Hit the brakes and slow the world down.

So, we can smile and axe that frown.

We were never made to go so fast.

If we don't slow down our lives will soon be passed.

We need time to rest and take a breather or all we will do is meet the grim Reaper.

Why do we rush from here to there.

We all need time to say our prayers.

To give thanks to our Lord for all we have, even if we don't think we have a great deal.

We hopefully have the emotions we feel.

Our Lord will ensure we have our heavenly meal, so let's slow things down so we can all have a future, so we can rest and rest some more and not have to suffer a stupor.



Paul Simmons

Thirst for Justice

A statue in Paisley, Renfrewshire commemorates a woman whose main claim to fame is that she once found a decomposing snail in a ginger beer bottle. May Donoghue was served the drink in a cafe in August 1928, and downed it before spotting the offending mollusc. Unsurprisingly, she became ill and sued the manufacturer of the drink.



The case of Donoghue v Stevenson laid the foundation for modern negligence law, and the statue of Mrs Donoghue was erected in 2018 near the original site of the café.

John Phillips

To hire the church hall please contact:

Revd. Betsy Gray-Hammond

Phone: 07842 608 911

e-mail: revbetsy@btinternet.com

The hourly rate is £21.00

(Regrettably 18th and 21st Birthday Parties are excluded)

Commercial Organisation rates are £25.00 per hour.

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.

More than a funeral director since 1690.

67 High Street, Rottingdean | 01273 306 000