

# PARISH NEWS

JUNE 2022

## From the Vicarage

June is Jubilee month and whenever my attention is drawn to the Queen, her example of service comes to mind. Princess Elizabeth, during her visit to South Africa, which my parents remembered so clearly all their lives, made this promise on her 21<sup>st</sup> birthday: *'I declare before you that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong. But I shall not have strength to carry out this resolution alone unless you join it with me, as I now invite you to do: I know that your support will be unfailingly given. God help me to make good my vow, and God bless all of you who are willing to share in it.'*

What has unfolded is a very long life of service, and there have been many difficult years, many good years, times of great happiness, and times of great sorrow – much the same as we all experience in this transient life.

Some may be quite unmoved by a life of service in surroundings of obvious opulence and luxury, but this is perhaps what makes the Queen's dedication to her duty remarkable. She did not *need* to be so faithful to her calling; throughout history there have been good and bad monarchs. In this day and age, with her role not a political one, would dereliction of her duty have caused much upheaval? Yet she 'put duty before personal preference, showing remarkable restraint and self-sacrifice' in order to keep her public promises.

Being accountable for how we live our lives seems an old-fashioned idea, for many times the focus these days is on 'selfcare', being true to oneself. Service to others is what we do, so that we feel better about ourselves. Perhaps this generalised statement seems harsh, but the truth is that the human condition requires offering and accepting service to and from others. And Christians know that ultimately there will be a reckoning, and we will be accountable for all that we have done or left undone. This would be an intolerable burden without God's help and guidance, and his infinite mercy. As the Queen said in 2002: *'Each day is a new beginning, I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God.'*

Psalm 23 is one of the Queen's favourites, but perhaps she identifies with that other monarch of long ago, King David, who wrote: *'The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts; so I am helped, and my heart exults.'* (Psalm 28 verse 7.)

We may not live like royalty, but we are all called to serve; let's do it to the best of our ability and give thanks to God for our Queen. God bless you all

Revd Shirley Pearce

## Church Services and Morning Prayer

The Queen's Jubilee Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	09:30	Arlington Songs of Praise	Morning Prayer takes place at 9.30 am each Wednesday at Berwick church.
	09:30	Selmeston Family Service	
	11:00	Berwick Thanksgiving Service	Starting on 1 <sup>st</sup> June there will be Evening Prayer at Wilmington church at 5.00 pm on Wednesdays.
	11:00	Wilmington Songs of Praise	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	09:30	Alciston BCP	If you would like to receive weekly notification about services (the Sunday Link) please contact the Benefice Administrator <a href="mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk">benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk</a> who will add your email address to the mailing list.
	09:30	Arlington Holy Communion	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	
	11:00	Wilmington Holy Communion	
Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	09:30	Arlington Holy Communion	
	09:30	Selmeston Holy Communion	
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion	
	11:00	Wilmington Family Service	
	09:30	Alciston BCP	

Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	09:30	Arlington Holy Communion
	11:00	Berwick Holy Communion
	11:00	Wilmington Holy Communion

## Forthcoming Benefice Events at Wilmington

Organized by the PCC of St Mary's and St Peter's Church — and everyone's welcome.

### Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June — Jubilee Flower Festival

You are invited to bring your tributes as we commemorate the Queen's reign. Flower arrangements, or any other handcrafted floral tribute or bunting, will be welcome. Please bring them to the church by Thursday morning.

#### 11.00 am Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June — Jubilee Songs of Praise

A service of music and hymns to mark this special jubilee. Please do join us.

#### 2.00 pm Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July — 'I spy!' What's Outside the Church?

Explore the churchyard, and find flora and fauna, particular graves of significance, and other features unique to this little corner of God's acre. Prizes for the fastest to complete the challenge.

Shirley Pearce

## Berwick Village Platinum Jubilee Party



3.00 – 5.00 pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June at Berwick village hall and the recreation ground

Do come along to celebrate...

There will be games for the children and an arts and craft competition.

Liz Golden/Sue Woodgate/Carol Palmer

## Dedication of Stained-Glass Window and Tea Party in Selmeston

3.00 pm. on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July at Selmeston Church and afterwards at The Old Vicarage.

The new stained-glass window is to be installed in Selmeston Church (details in the May Parish News) at the end of June and the window will be dedicated at a service to be led by the Bishop of Lewes on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July. The service will be followed by a village tea party at The Old Vicarage to which everyone is welcome. The event will be free, with donations gratefully received.

As numbers will be restricted, we do need to know if you are going to attend, so please let me know by 1st July. Tel: 01323 811136 or Email: [stephlg@btconnect.com](mailto:stephlg@btconnect.com).

Stephanie Lewis-Grey

## Alciston and Selmeston Flower Show

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August at Alciston and Selmeston Village Hall

Following on from the successful 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary show last year, we are hoping that this year's show will be even bigger and better. The show is open to anyone living in Alciston and Selmeston and to their friends and relatives, so please do encourage people to put in entries. Don't worry if you're a complete beginner or if you think your entries don't stand a chance. We all think that and sometimes get a nice surprise. It's a fun show and a chance to catch up with, or get to know, your neighbours over a cup of tea, a pint of beer or a glass of wine.

By now you should have received a schedule for this year's show. If you haven't already had one, or if you would like an online copy to send to friends and relatives, please contact Jan Matthews.

NB We are always looking for additional help on the day, so if you think you have time, please let us know. Also, we're always keen to recruit more representatives onto the committee, particularly from Alciston, which is underrepresented. If you do feel you're able to help, please ring Jan Mathews (811380) or Margaret Weller (811396). Hopefully, we will see you at the Flower Show!

Jan Matthews-Moulding

## Berwick Produce Show 2022

2.00 pm Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August at Berwick Village Hall

The Berwick Produce Show is back - please put this date in your diaries! Having decided not to run our show last year we are full steam ahead with planning the 2022 show. The show will be on the playing fields behind the village hall. It is a great family day out with classes for all ages, there will also be our usual family dog show.

Show schedules will be distributed in April; if anyone would like to put an advertisement in the show schedule, please email me at [sue.woodgate1@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.woodgate1@btinternet.com)

Sue Woodgate

## June Gardener's Diary

This month is the last chance to sow main crop Carrots for them to be ready for harvesting in September or October. Also, Peas sown early in the month should still be ready in September.

Sow Swedes if they've not already been done and French Beans can go in for a second crop. Continue to sow Beetroot, Spring Onions, Turnips, Lettuces, and Radishes with some at the beginning of the month and some near the end.

This is also the last chance to sow Runner Beans and with a bit of luck will give you a crop as late as October.

Watering is especially important in dry weather. Keep the roots of all plant moist but not soaking wet. Hopefully, this month we will be harvesting some of the early sowings - i.e. Potatoes, Radishes, Turnips, Carrots, Peas and a few more.

Lisa Collington

## Fly Tipping

Residents across East Sussex are set to benefit from changes to the rules at local tips. Households will no longer have to pay to get rid of DIY waste under government plans that will change the rules that currently allows some Local Authorities, such as East Sussex County Council, to charge for DIY waste from households. Under the proposals, household DIYers would not be charged to get rid of waste -- including plasterboards, bricks, and bath units. This is part of a fresh move to crack down on fly-tipping, which has increased since the beginning of the pandemic.

The Government banned backdoor charges on local residents disposing of household rubbish at household waste centres in 2015 and since then guidance has made clear that this includes DIY household waste. However, around a third of Local Authorities still charge for certain types of DIY waste, using rules designed for construction waste. The changes outlined in a technical consultation will change this rule and could save households charges for an individual item – for example, a sheet of plasterboard.

Fly-tipping is a crime which blights communities, poses a risk to public health and the environment, and costs up to £392 million a year. Local authorities dealt with 1.13 million fly-tipping incidents in 2020/21, up by 16% from 2019/20. Charging residents to dispose of their household waste cannot continue. We need to make it as easy as possible for residents to be able to dispose of household waste safely and properly, meaning that no one is using cost as an attempt to excuse fly-tipping. I fully back these plans to ensure that local council cannot charge residents for disposing of household waste anymore.

Maria Caulfield, MP

## Recipe of the Month – Easy Strawberry, Mascarpone and Lemon Curd Tart

Serves 6

### Ingredients

125g Mascarpone  
125g Greek yogurt  
175g Lemon Curd  
Zest of 1 Lemon  
Sweet pastry case  
400g Strawberries, hulled and sliced  
Icing Sugar, to dust

### Method

Beat together the mascarpone and yogurt until smooth and then beat in the lemon curd and most of the lemon zest.

Fill the pastry case evenly with this mixture and arrange the sliced strawberries over the filling.

Chill for at least 30 minutes.

Just before serving, scatter the remaining lemon zest over the fruit and add a dusting of icing sugar.

Valerie Shaw

## Family Support Work (FSW)

Thank you to all of you who joined us back in April for our Easter Walk. It was a fantastic day, and we hope that everybody enjoyed themselves. We hope that the event will raise around £5000 once all sponsorship money has been collected, which is a wonderful result and provides much-needed funds to support our East Sussex work.

Our new practitioners joined us at the start of May and are settling into their areas, meeting local contacts and beginning to build caseloads. We are so happy to have them on board so that we can offer our services to families in areas which have not had support for many years. You can find out more information about our new practitioners on our website or Facebook page. Work with families is really gathering speed now, and the challenges of coping with the cost of living increases are the key issue for most of them. We have also seen a rise in families being referred to us for domestic abuse reasons, which means a lot of very gentle and nurturing support is required.

'Open Garden' season is upon us now and there are many garden openings to look forward to over the coming months. Full details can be found on the Events page of our website, and we do hope you are able to join us at some of them. We are also planning many family events for the Jubilee weekend in various parts of Sussex, as well as a return to Warnham Park for the first time since 2019, and a new family day at Ashburnham.

If you collect items for our foodbank, we would be particularly grateful for jam and other spreads, rice, toiletries and household cleaning products. We are fully stocked with cereal, pasta and tea so please avoid these if possible. Thank you for your continued support of FSW's work.

April's work in numbers

- ◆ 189 individual visits and 474 calls with families supporting 355 adults and 331 children
- ◆ 19 supported meetings with other agencies
- ◆ 27 group sessions held supporting 379 parents and 242 children
- ◆ 188 food deliveries made

Prayer points

- ◆ Pray for our new family support practitioners, that they will quickly feel part of the team and their local communities
- ◆ Pray for all the children we support who are about to take GCSE exams
- ◆ Give thanks for new contacts made in recent months which may lead to new sources of financial and volunteer support

*Nikki Kerr, FSW Director of Fundraising and Marketing*

## Smile: A Poem by Spike Milligan

Smiling is infectious, you catch it like the flu,  
When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too.

I passed around the corner and someone saw my grin.  
When he smiled, I realized I'd passed it on to him.

I thought about that smile, then I realized its worth.  
A single smile, just like mine could travel round the earth.

So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected.  
Let's start an epidemic quick, and get the world infected!

*Jeremy Shaw*

## Ghost Moth

A few years ago, as the sun set over the South Downs, I was wandering through a wood on a twilight hike. Through the trees I noticed about a dozen figures decked out in brilliant white gathering in a small clearing. I hit the floor and, buried amongst the bracken, watched as other white figures joined them. Each individual slowly started swaying, swinging hypnotically like a pendulum suspended on an invisible wire. The whole silent scene felt eerie, otherworldly, ancient. I was spellbound and barely breathing, scared I would be discovered, and this mesmerising performance would end. As some of the figures swung fixed to their stations, others oscillated wildly, whirling and crashing into each other. The light was fading fast and as my surroundings dissolved into shadow the swaying white figures seemed luminous against the gloom. Then, as the full moon rose and illuminated the glade, the action slowed, the figures retreated, and I was left alone in the gloaming.

The ritual I had witnessed was the dance of the Ghost Moths: elaborate courtship behaviour performed by the males on warm summer evenings across Sussex. That moonlit glade had been temporarily transformed into a miniature moth disco where these incredible insects pirouetted, pranced, swaggered, and strutted in an attempt to attract a female. More 'Saturday Night Fever' than 'The Wicker Man'. And, like tiny Travoltas, the male Ghost Moths know that to stand out on a crowded dancefloor you need a flashy white suit. Their wings are whiter than white and look as though they have been hand-painted with Tipp-Ex. The female Ghost Moth has a more subdued wardrobe and wears pale yellow wings with elegant orange swirls. Males also have another trick up their sleeve (or in this case their trouser legs). Their hind legs contain furry scent-brushes, which release pheromones into the

air like an overpowering aphrodisiac. Once the ladies are lured, it's the individual moth's dancing which seals the deal. It can be murder on the dancefloor and scuffles start as the males try to assert their positions. It's a behaviour known as lekking, and the dominant dancers will lead a lucky lady of the lek into the surrounding shadows. In days gone by, the moth's mysterious, ethereal waltz was interpreted as something supernatural, and it has been suggested that the dance of the Ghost Moth gave rise to local legends of fairies and Will-O'-The-Wisps. If anything, the reality is just as magical and spellbinding to watch.

*Michael Blencowe Sussex Wildlife Trust*

## Endpiece: Reflections

As with all journeys, this one started with a single step, through wind and water, earth and fire bringing us to Palm Sunday and Christ's entry into Jerusalem.

The day was bathed in sunshine as we gathered, palm branches at the ready, a priest to lead the way into the church that was filled with the sound of uplifting hymns and a sense of wellbeing.

The next few evenings were filled by Compline as our journey took a darker turn - taking us to the beautiful candlelit service on Maundy Thursday, where, during the celebration of the Last Supper, the memory of Christ in bread and wine was laid down. The simple act of foot washing, a portrayal of humility and service and the silent retreat into the night is really touching and deeply moving.

The agony in the garden and the silent vigil followed. The air was crisp and cool as darkness descended as if to shroud the horrors that were to follow on that faraway hill.

A church, with altar stripped bare, waiting in sadness and disbelief to hear of man's inhumanity to man. The hymns were difficult to sing, and nothing but nothing can compare with the deep sense of utter desolation that was felt as we listened in silence to the Passion Gospel on Good Friday.

Walking into church on Easter day, into a church filled with flowers and love and hope, were the final steps of the journey out of darkness into light; I felt like Mary finding Christ again.

Christ is risen, He is risen indeed Alleluia!

*Michèle Boys*

## Benefice Priests

Revd Peter Blee - Rector of Berwick and Vicar of Selmeston with Alciston

The Parsonage, Berwick, Polegate, BN26 6SR  
Tel: 01323 870512 Email: [peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:peter.blee@berwickchurch.org.uk)  
Peter's day off is Saturday.

Revd Shirley Pearce - Assistant Priest  
The Vicarage, Wilmington, Polegate, BN26 5SL  
Tel: 01323 318231 Email: [revshirley@m@gmail.com](mailto:revshirley@m@gmail.com)  
Shirley's 'on duty' days are Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday.

## Churchwardens

Alciston - Michèle Boys Tel: 01323 870623  
Berwick - Ruth Nares Tel: 01323 811186  
Selmeston - Jan Matthews Tel: 01323 811380

## Benefice Administrator

Stephanie Lewis-Grey Tel: 01323 811136 Email:  
[benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk](mailto:benefice.administrator@berwickchurch.org.uk)

## Parish News Advertising

Brian Calcott coordinates this. Tel. 07999 788618.

## Parish News Distribution

Jeremy and Valerie Shaw coordinate this. Tel: 01323 811567.

We are grateful to receive a donation this month from Mr and Mrs S. Lee, Jane Macintosh.

## Parish News

The production team is Jane Anderson and Martin Chilvers. Contributions (other than advertising requests) should be sent to Martin Chilvers by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Email: [empty.sea@outlook.com](mailto:empty.sea@outlook.com);

Post: 66 Parkfield Avenue, Eastbourne, BN22 9SF.

You should receive confirmation of receipt by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, but if not, please call him on 01323 507655.

Contributions can also be passed on to one of the coordinators:

Jane Anderson at Old Postman's Cottage, Alciston  
Tel: 01323 870075.

Valerie Shaw at Selmeston House, Selmeston  
Tel: 01323 811567.

Laurie Tinsley, Wynsford, Berwick  
Tel: 01323 870895.

## Donations

Financial donations to the Parish News are gratefully received. Cheques payable to "Parish News" can be passed to the Treasurer, Brian Calcott at 2 Railway Cottages, Station Road, Berwick, Polegate, BN26 6TA.

Alternatively, electronic donations can be made to Barclays Bank - Account No. 70650625; Sort code 20-49-76.