

St Mary's Slaughtam Parish News



Chichester Cathedral - Welcoming worshippers

Tapestry Lunch Club - Social gatherings

Handcross Pantry - Thankyou

May / June 2021

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There is no Roman Catholic Church in our Parish. The nearest one serving this area is:
The Church of Our Lady of Fatima Staplefield, served by St. Paul's ,Haywards Heath 450139

May & June 2021

St Mary's Slaughtam and St Mark's Staplefield

At the time of production of this magazine, lockdown measures are beginning to be eased, but there are still restrictions and we need to proceed cautiously. We hope to have more in-person services soon.

Please keep an eye on our social media pages, website, YouTube channel and weekly notice sheet for further updates.

Currently, our usual pattern of services is as follows:

1 st Sunday of month	10am	St Mark's Staplefield
	10.30am	YouTube
2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th Sundays	9am	St Mark's Staplefield
	10.30am	YouTube
5 th Sunday	9am	YouTube
1 st Tuesday of month	7.45pm Prayer gathering	Zoom

Please book in advance if you would like to attend the services inside St Mark's, St Mary's or All Saints churches – contact the church office on slaughtam@btinternet.com or 01444 400221.

Our YouTube services can be found here:

https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCBQ0W4r1m39ixogQWR3TxoA?fbclid=IwAR2vLqBms97lq9StSwn8qvgX_vTF11-tg0LV7z80cVFC8BZE034WNbNHhc4

Or search for: United Benefice of St Mary's and St Mark's.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a chat on Zoom after the YouTube services:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81415779955?pwd=cTM0VGk2SVJMU1U3cW53Y2FqeCtGZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 1577 9955, Passcode: 243473

Prayer ministry is available after the 10.30 online services. The phone numbers of two people will be in the weekly notice sheet and on the screen after the service, and they will be available for an hour following the service, should you wish to call them to talk and pray together. (This is in addition to the Zoom coffee sessions.)

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An Update from Chichester Cathedral



Over the last year, Chichester Cathedral faced many challenges and developed new means of staying connected with the wider community and providing means of support and resources.

When public worship was suspended last March, the Cathedral began live-streaming a weekly Sunday service. As limited public worship returned, additional services continue to be live-streamed and made available on the Cathedral's website. Other special services are live-streamed including those on Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas, Holy Week and more.

The Cathedral developed resources for worship and prayer at home, and has run on-line lectures, concerts, choral music, and arts events.

It has continued to support its partners including Chichester District Foodbank, UK Harvest and Stonepillow. Earlier this year with the Sussex Pub Group and Pallant House Gallery, the Cathedral launched the Friday Lunch Club which offered a free two course lunch to vulnerable or isolated residents in the city.

As we look forward to the easing of restrictions, the Cathedral hopes to welcome back more worshippers, visitors and other groups in the coming months.

Cont'd, on page 4.....

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Like many other institutions there have been serious financial implications: one important way of providing regular support is through the Chichester Cathedral Friends. Through project funding the Friends have made considerable contributions in maintaining and improving facilities and services and developing the Cathedral's mission.

Current projects cover all areas of Cathedral life, including new toilet facilities in the North Transept (currently facilities are only available outside), new IT infrastructure, and improved Cathedral lighting.

In normal times, the Friends like to socialise and have fun too! Events throughout the year include talks, day trips, lunches and holidays. Joining the Friends is a way to enjoy new experiences and friendships whilst supporting the Cathedral's work and sacred heritage.

For further information, please visit www.chichestercathedral.org.uk For details of the Friends scroll down the home page and find details under 'Cathedral for the Community.'



Tapestry Lunch Club

We are a not-for-profit social enterprise offering support across villages from Handcross, Slaugham, Staplefield, Warninglid to Mannings Heath.

We run a hosted day out for those experiencing social isolation and symptoms associated with early dementia.

The day offers a fun, socially stimulating, warm and friendly experience – all in the comfort of our fully vetted and trained hosts' own homes - a more intimate environment for our guests to share companionship and memories.

The day includes transport in a private car, a home cooked two-course lunch and refreshments, optional activities, and a safe environment.

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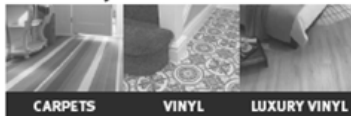


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Handcross Community Pantry

Thank you so much to those who have given generously to the Community Pantry. Throughout the pandemic, we have been able to get food to the people who need it most, and the generosity of people in our community has been wonderful.

We are sure that you are aware that the need for organisations like the Handcross Community Pantry has grown considerably over the past year and, with a large number of people facing potential unemployment in the months to come, that need is going to continue to grow.

Our aim is to be committed to being here for the community as long as there is a need, and so we are asking those who can, to continue to be as generous as possible for the sake of those who can't.

You can donate to the Pantry in a number of different ways:

- 1 Regular donations of food and toiletry items.
(See below for details of items we accept.)
- 2 Organise a one-off donation with a group of people. Perhaps at work or school or in your street, you could arrange a larger community donation.
- 3 Give financially. We have a team of people who do shopping for the Pantry each week. We also aim to provide vouchers for use at the Handcross Butcher whenever we can, and your financial donations enable us to do this.

All donations can be delivered to Handcross Hardware & Craft or to the Handcross Community Preschool. Financial donations can also be made via BACS (sort code 40-24-33, account 81842242, account name Slaugham PCC, reference 'Pantry' or 'CP').

If you or anyone you know are in need of help, then please don't hesitate to contact us on 01444 400221.

Thank you again for your support.

Grace and Peace,

The Handcross Community Pantry Team



Searching for extinct animals -

Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

A wonderful museum lurks unassumingly on Brighton's Dyke Road, the tree-lined residential avenue that connects the city to the rolling chalk hills of the South Downs. It was here, in the illuminated cabinets and cases of The Booth Museum of Natural History that my story started.

A display of the bones, eggs, fur and feathers of extinct animals reconnected me with my childhood obsession with lost species. It was the starting point for a journey which led me deep into the caves of New Zealand looking for the bones of the mighty extinct Moa – birds which stood over 12 feet tall. I hike mountain ranges in search of the South Island Kōkako, a bird known as the 'Grey Ghost'; which some believe may still exist.

In San Francisco I seek the remaining sand dunes where the diminutive Xerces Blue butterfly once flew and in a dimly lit museum storeroom, I am granted an audience with the holiest of extinct relics – the mummified head of the legendary Dodo.

Although my quest leads me to Copenhagen, Helsinki, Paris and New York I was surprised to find that, if I was searching for extinct animals, there was a story right on my doorstep.

Sussex was the last known whereabouts of Ivell's Sea Anemone, declared extinct in 1997. This delicate creature once existed in Widewater Lagoon near Shoreham and is known from nowhere else on the planet. Widewater's faded information panel contains a drawing of this mythical beast. Grey and tubular, the illustration resembles a section of somebody's small intestine or a really long sock with wiry tentacles poking out of one end.

I headed off in search of the only remaining specimens of this species, stored deep in the basement of the Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Here I was handed a jar with a domed glass stopper. Inside the jar was a solution of 75% ethanol and floating in that ethanol was nothing.

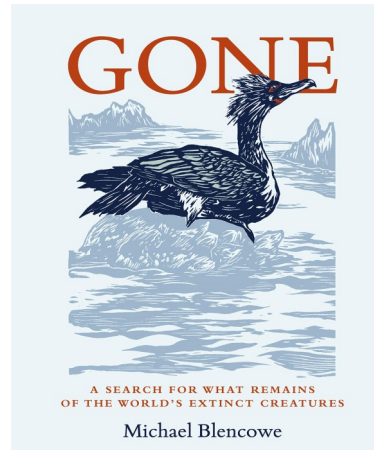
I put on my glasses and raised the jar up to the storeroom's light bulb and only then could I make out the anemone, a miniscule, thin squiggle suspended in the solution.

After giant Moa bones and mummified Dodos there was no disguising my disappointment. I had harboured a hope that maybe I could be the man to gallantly re-discover Ivell's Sea Anemone in Widewater lagoon. The fact that I couldn't re-discover it in a jar two inches from my face didn't inspire me with confidence.

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Undaunted, I carried on my quest and, armed with a snorkel, a faulty torch and an inflatable lilo in the shape of crocodile I bravely waded into Widewater. You'll find the rest of this story and many more of my adventures in my new book '*Gone: A search for what remains of the world's extinct creatures*', published on 27 April and available everywhere.



Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guide book, Discovering Wildlife. It's easy to join online at sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join



Scam warning

Be aware that there is a particularly threatening telephone scam occurring at the moment, where the message claims to be from HMRC and threatens arrest if the call is not returned. It is not a genuine HMRC call.

HMRC urges people to check the government website if they think they might have been approached by a scammer.

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May garden notes

Easter and the weeks either side have been rather chilly with some overnight frosts, reminding us not to race ahead and put out non-hardy plants !

Bluebells are later than last year, swathes of blue appearing mid April onwards.

Also asparagus which is not showing a single spear as I type mid month.

The ground is beautifully dry now after 4 weeks of negligible rain so we'll be praying for some soon, especially if you've sown grass seed or laid turf for a new lawn.

Damaged areas of lawn can be repaired with seed or turf - moss and weed killer treatments applied (and watered in if no rain appears).

Hardy annual flowers (sweet peas, larkspur, stocks, antirrhinums, calendula) and vegetables like leeks, peas, broad beans, brassicas, lettuce, beetroot and spinach can be planted out and hanging baskets made up. Keep the latter protected from frost - we're usually safe by the third week of May but if they're hung up against the protection of a house or brick garage, early May is often fine. Resist the temptation to plant out any of the tender bedding plants e.g. impatiens, petunias, begonias, geraniums, marigolds and frost sensitive veg. e.g. courgettes, sweet corn, French and runner beans until mid May. Emerging shoots of potatoes are best protected by earthing up or covering with fleece until the danger of frosts has passed. Keep up with the weeding especially amongst onions, leeks and carrots that are easily choked by weeds. Tie in climbers as they grow (e.g. climbing roses, clematis, honeysuckle and sweet peas).

On the pruning front, at the beginning of early flowering shrubs such as osmanthus, mahonia, choisya, camellias, forsythia, viburnums e.g. bodnantense, heathers (Erica carnea etc) and semi-woody perennials like fuchsias, santolinas and perovskia. They then have plenty of time for new growth to ripen sufficiently to flower next year.

It's not too late to divide or split large clumps of the later flowering herbaceous perennials like agapanthus, heleniums, crocosmia and michelmas daisies. They will enjoy a boost of growth from being lifted, split and replanted, and will have time to settle back in before they flower.

Thinking about borders, - forget-me-nots do a wonderful job of covering all sorts of ills. but it's wise to pull up at least some of them once they have finished flowering and before they set seed. If left unchecked they will seed everywhere and shade out other plants. Honesty (lunaria) can also do a take over bid if left unchecked, though in our garden they never have a chance as the pigeons strip them bare, likewise sweet rocket (also a cruciferae or cabbage family). Plums, gages and cherry trees needing a prune are best done mid April to mid May as the sap is rising causing the wounds to heal readily.



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Ponds should have been cleared of winter debris and congested clumps of marginal or water plants thinned and pumps serviced, but do it if you haven't yet. For herb lovers, parsley, thyme, sage and chives are usually more prolific and live longer grown in proper soil in the garden than in compost in a small pot. Annuals like basil, dill, coriander and chervil run to seed mid to late summer so it doesn't matter so much.

Tatty foliage of narcissi / daffodils and early flowering bulbs can be removed now. May is the season for alliums - worth a place in anyone's garden.

Enjoy the heady scents of deciduous azaleas and vibrant colours of them and their evergreen cousins.



Lindsay Shurvell

Coronavirus

From the 12th of April, or thereabouts, we have been able to meet outdoors in groups of six. All shops, as well as those selling food, are now allowed to start trading again, plus hairdressers, libraries etc., including outdoor attractions like zoos etc. Although the government guide-lines still apply with regard to social distancing, and wearing masks in shops, life as we know it seems to be slowly getting back to normal.

Trips overseas of course are still 'off the menu', but we live in a beautiful part of this country, and when the weather is like it is today (as I type this), it is a pleasure and joy to be outside.

May 17 is the date given for our next step in coming out of 'lockdown'. This is dependent of course on whether the number of cases is still going down.

According to the latest data we are very much on track for this to happen, not least because of the hard work that has been undertaken by, not only the NHS staff, but many volunteers carrying out the vaccination programme, which so far has been very successful.

I am hoping and praying that by the next edition of this magazine, some, if not all, of the local village organisations / activities will be up and running again.

Ed.

***All articles for the July / August 2021 Magazine
should reach us by 28th June AT THE VERY LATEST.
Addresses and e-mails on inside of front cover.
Thankyou. Editor.***

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Community Choir	Mr.Graham Reid e.mail:gandc.reid@gmail.com	400467

PARISH DIRECTORY PEASE POTTAGE		
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