



Parish Magazine

Our Lady and St Peter

East Grinstead

St Bernard

Lingfield

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The Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Peter,
with St Bernard's, Lingfield

Priest in charge of the two churches

Father Steven Purnell
The Presbytery
17 St James Road
East Grinstead
West Sussex RH19 1DL
Telephone: 01342 325705

Deacon
Reverend Ted Rider
Telephone: 01342 835110

Our Lady and St Peter

London Road
East Grinstead
West Sussex, RH19 1EY

St Bernard

Vicarage Road
Lingfield
Surrey RH7 6EZ

St Peter's Catholic
Primary School

Crossways Avenue
East Grinstead
West Sussex RH19 1JB
Telephone: 01342 321985

www.stpeterseastgrinstead.co.uk

Head teacher:
Mrs Mary Claffey

St Wilfrid's Catholic
Secondary School

Old Horsham Road
Crawley
West Sussex RH11 8PG
Telephone: 01293 421421

www.stwilfrids.com

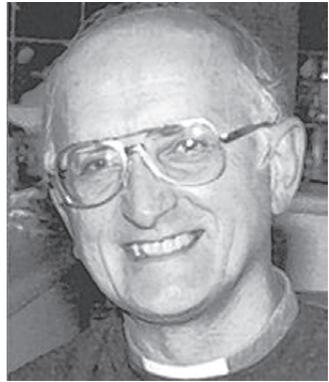
Head teacher:
Mr Jonathan Morris

Diocese of Arundel and Brighton: www.dabnet.org

We enter a new year. I hope 2012 will be better than last year, for last year saw the deaths of Fathers Gordon and Len: Fr Gordon in January and Fr Len in July. I wrote a little about Fr Gordon in the last issue, so a few words about Fr Len.

Fr Michael Leonard Turner had a long connection with East Grinstead parish. Not only did he spend time in retirement here for a while, he was also here briefly in the early 1960s, as curate or assistant priest. It was not a happy time for him, as he found the then parish priest neither encouraging to new young priests nor sympathetic to the changing mood of the Church. However, one good thing did come out of Fr Len's time here: the Catholic Women's League. Fr Len was a great one for encouraging the laity in their vocation and in getting them together as community.

There are many stories told of Fr Len, and he himself was a great storyteller, with a wonderful sense of timing—something he inherited from his theatrical family. He endeared himself to lots of folk, especially the ladies and children, and was a source of many many funny stories concerning the war or people he knew in the world of entertainment—he had mingled with them all. Another trait he probably inherited from the same source was a difficulty in settling down and staying anywhere long—apart from his years in Peacehaven. Whenever I visited Fr Len, wherever he was, his rooms always looked as if he had just moved in or was in the process of moving out. We were fortunate to have him for these few last years, and I am grateful in particular for his help at Lingfield and Forest Row. It was good to see how folk rallied around him and looked after him towards the end here in East Grinstead. Thank you. And thanks to the sisters at the convent in Littlehampton for taking him in for his last months. Now he rests alongside his great friend, Fr Gordon, at Mount Noddy. Please remember him and Fr Gordon in your prayers. May they rest in peace.



Father Steven Purnell

Yet again I must thank our contributors for having supplied another large and interesting issue of the Magazine . . . each time I worry not long before the deadline that we might only have a few pages and then watch with wonder as the articles arrive and the issue bulks up and becomes more and more interesting! Many thanks to you all, with a special thank you to our younger writers. We hope to have the next issue around Pentecost; I will give a deadline in the Parish Newsletter. For some reason this year everyone has been wishing us an interesting New Year—but I suspect just now we would all happily settle for a boring, peaceful one, at least as far as the world situation is concerned. So Eric also joins me in wishing you all a blessed and happy New Year!

Klara King (EC 321581)

email: klara.m.king@comcrafts.co.uk

Choir notes

I am going to begin with a note about the organ at our church. It was built in 1973 in memory of Geoffrey Fuller Webb and was paid for by the Webb family. His daughter, Ursula, married Ted Honess quite late in life and lived at Sackville House. She was a member of our parish. Denis Thurlow built the organ in consultation with the family at a cost of £4,500. They specified that it should be perfect for playing Bach. This is a quote from the programme of the inaugural concert. “The new organ is built in the classical baroque style—a two manual and pedal, mechanical instrument. Entirely free standing, the organ has tonal departments all housed in individual tone boxes. The manuals are ‘Swell’ organ and ‘Great’ organ. The pipes are made of first class materials, the Principals and Mixture stops of 95% tin, the Quintation, Gedekt and Stopped Diapason of mahogany and Quebec pine and the remainder of pipe work in spotted metal. The casework is in oak.” Nicholson’s have been mainly responsible for the tuning and in 1986 and 2006 carried out maintenance and overhauling. There has been no alteration to the original specification. The organ is listed of historical interest and is visited from time to time by organist associations who enjoy playing it.

The Junior Band who play for the Children’s Mass would welcome newcomers. They need to be about Grade 1 or above, but any queries

should be addressed to Julian, who arranges the music. The Folk Group now has two regular young guitarists but would still welcome newcomers, who should contact me. We launched the new "Mass of Creation" in September, and I hope that people are finding it increasingly familiar and a help with the new words. My thanks to all singers and players who turn out regularly to support me and the congregation.

Mary O'Sullivan, EG 322959; Julian Spencer, EG 324560

Catholic Women's League

Our National AGM this year took place on the last week of October in Worthing. There were 487 people present, including guests and clergy, 39 members from the A&B Branch attended, including 6 from the East Grinstead section. As usual this was a very uplifting weekend. Listening to the regional reports and the reports of the many Special Committees that come under the umbrella of CWL we realize how much good work they do. These include Relief & Refugee and Our Lady's Catechists. Night prayers ended the Friday meeting.

On Saturday our National President, Margaret Richards, told us that we have had four new sections opened in the past year, including one in Bexhill. Our Mass was celebrated by Bishop Peter Doyle, Episcopal Advisor to the League, and he spoke of "Fresh Wind in Our Sails". Our main speaker was James Parker, Catholic Co-ordinator for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. His talk was entitled "Going for Gold", and he was very enthusiastic about the church's involvement in the Games.

Our Saturday evening entertainment was by The James Edwin Festival Choir from Littlehampton, with a Rodgers & Hammerstein medley and audience participation. This was followed by dancing. Following Mass on Sunday, we had a presentation by the Promotions Team and then meeting closed.

At section level, we enjoyed a lunch at Fr Kevin Gaskins at Wadhurst in August and a lunch at the home of Mary and Danny O'Sullivan in September. Also in September we joined with members from the A&B and Southwark Branches on a Pilgrimage to West Grinstead. This was a very spiritual occasion and is planned to be repeated next year. Our speaker

in September was Sue Joy, who told us of her work with the Justice and Peace Group in East Grinstead. In October Antoni Daszewski told us of his exciting trip to Antarctica, with a slide show. In November Keira Kempson and Jacob Pimenta-Richardson spoke about their experiences in Madagascar with films and artefacts. They presented us with a small crib scene made by the locals. In December we enjoyed our Christmas lunch.

Gill O'Driscoll

The Catenians

The Catenian Association is an international association of Catholic laymen with some 10,000 members. Formed in Manchester in 1908 as The Chums Benevolent Association, the name was changed to The Catenian Association in 1910. "Catenian" derives from the Latin word "catena", a decorative chain, and the symbolism of this is easily apparent. As a chain is formed (united) by its individual links, so are individual members of the Association in their various Circles united by the obligations of membership based around social and charitable ideals within a shared, Catholic faith. The Catenians are not a Catholic action group and are non-political. Application for membership is open to Catholic laymen over the age of 21, and there are no specific requirements in terms of employment or income.

Each Catenian group—or Circle—meets monthly, and the meetings follow a process split roughly into three parts. The meeting opens with prayers followed by items of Circle business. The meeting formalities then close with a prayer. After the formal process, Circle Brothers (as they are known) and any guests will retire to the bar for light refreshments and plenty of socializing. As well as the monthly meetings, various social events are held throughout the year. Some of these will be formal occasions and some less formal. These events are not aimed exclusively at circle members but are mostly organized so that members' families can participate and can enjoy each other's company. Visiting other circles is actively encouraged, and many enduring friendships have been made as a result of these visits.

East Grinstead parish has a Catenian Circle, and as well as participating in meetings and social events, it raises funds to contribute to various

charitable causes. One of these is the support of young people through the Catenian Bursary fund. Several of our own young parishioners have benefited from this fund; most recently, the fund contributed to a young parishioner who went to Lourdes as a helper.

If you are interested in learning more about Catenians—or are thinking of joining—the Circle Membership Officer (Phil Pentney) can be contacted online (www.egcats.co.uk) or at Our Lady & St Peter's Church.

On behalf of the East Grinstead Catenian Circle, I'd like to wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year.

Dave Brook

Christian Meditation Group

The Christian Meditation Group meets each Thursday evening between 7.30 and 8.30 p.m. in the Parish Centre. Our Group is one of many that meet in the United Kingdom and around the world.

We are part of the World Community for Christian Meditation and follow the teachings of the late Benedictine monk, Father John Main, who recovered the practice of Christian Meditation used by the Desert Fathers & Mothers in the fourth century.

We listen to a short talk by Father John or Father Lawrence Freeman (his successor and founder of the World Community for Christian Meditation) or by one of the members of the Group. The talk prepares our minds and hearts for a time of contemplation. In silence, we then meditate for about 20 minutes, following which we spend a few minutes sharing our reflections as well as any relevant questions or insights.

We recently travelled to Hove to meet up with two other groups in the area. We were warmly welcomed and watched a talk by Father Lawrence, who spoke of the Wheel of Prayer. He explained that the slowly rotating hub represents God, the spokes represent the many forms of prayer available to us, and the rim, with its busy movement, is importantly grounded in our busy lives.

All are welcome to join us any Thursday. You can telephone beforehand or just come along.

Gabrielle Joyce, EG 326118

The Society of St Vincent de Paul— Our Lady and St Peter

First of all, a big thank you to everyone who contributed to the SVP second collection on the weekend of 26/27 September 2011; the funds are being put to good use.

We are visiting over 30 elderly parishioners at Christmas time, as usual, with either a supermarket voucher or other gifts.

We continue to support our Indian Twin in Trivandrum, Kerala, Southern India, the SVP's Disaster Fund and the Baby Feeding Programme in Sudan, and we do what we can to assist the parish Lourdes Fund. Thank you again for your continuing support.

As we begin 2012, we will continue to support Ivy Pimenta with the monthly Parish Lunch Club, giving lifts, serving at table, and washing/clearing up. So we will continue to do what is required to support those in the parish and community who need our help.

If anyone feels that they would like to join our happy little team, please contact me on EG 811543, particularly if you are able to give someone a lift to Mass. I am bound to say that a CRB check is required for those who visit, because in our work we inevitably come into contact with children and vulnerable adults.

During the dark days of winter, we have been meeting at 2 p.m. on alternate Monday afternoons in the Parish Hall, so come and join us if you are available.

Peter Wells, President

Gospel of Life Group

In love, God calls us his children, for that indeed is what we are.

On 18 September the "Walk for Life" was held, a regular fundraising event to raise money to help vulnerable mothers and babies who live in the four homes run by the LIFE Charity in West Sussex.

Thirty-three supporters walked the 7 mile route from East Grinstead to Worth Abbey, picking up litter along the way. They were joined by pro-life colleagues from Horsham and Haywards Heath. There were also

other supporters who could not be present on the day but still managed to raise money. Sr Anne from St Joseph's Convent, Littlehampton, was unable to travel to East Grinstead so walked locally and donated £100. Angie Tyson, also from Littlehampton, raised £200 by having a sponsored haircut. All these efforts helped increase the total to over £1,900, with money still coming in.

The money enables the Group to buy goods to fill "mother and baby packs" given to the girls when they have their babies. The packs can be the only substantial present they receive after giving birth. Sometimes girls move in with baby already born, and in these circumstances we give a £30 Boots gift card. We also give cards and presents at Christmas and Easter and buy items for the house when needed—eg highchairs, stair gates, sundry furniture, and emergency bedding. LIFE receives grant funding from the local authority to pay for the support workers and life-skills training provided at the houses, but this is now under threat, making the support the Gospel of Life Group provides all the more important. Thank you to all the parishioners who supported the event in some way this year.

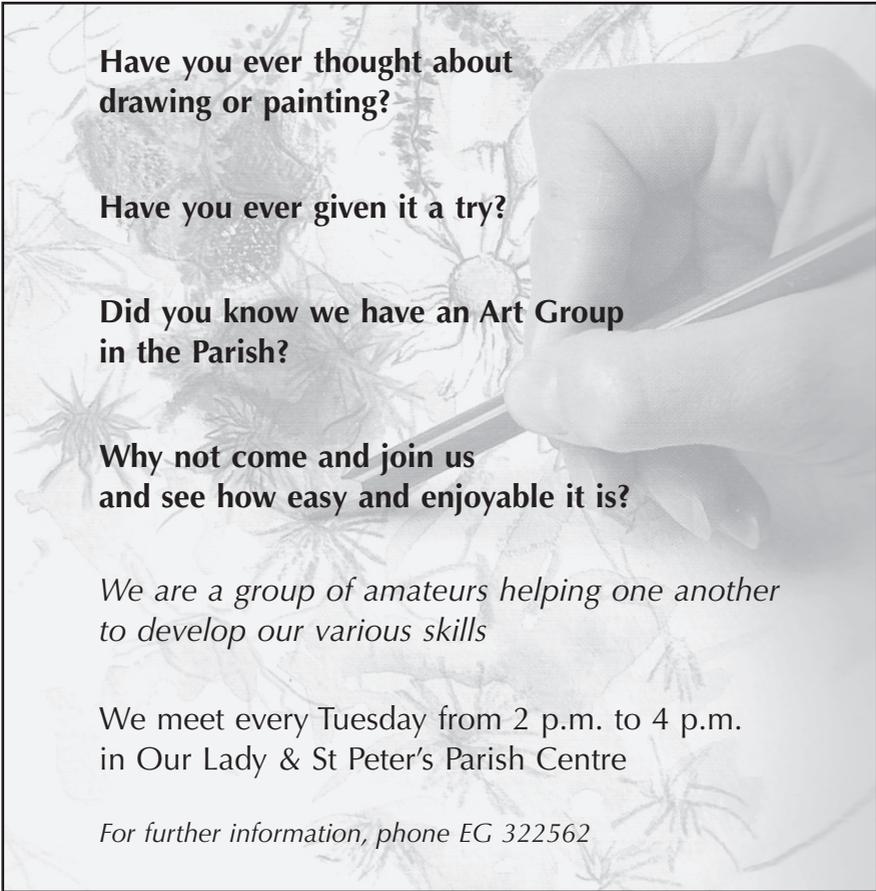
Memorial service

Fr Steven led the service at the memorial to mark its tenth anniversary on the 3rd of December. Poems were read, and flowers laid, remembering the unborn children lost through abortion, miscarriage, or stillbirth.

The memorial is a place of healing for those who have suffered the loss on an unborn child. Flowers have been left, and roses planted, by grieving parents since 2001. The poem reproduced below, read at the service, was left at the memorial some years ago.

Farewell my precious, too small and too weak
A life pure and simple is what you did seek.
If this could have happened oh what joy you would bring
But you must go now darling with the angels you'll sing.
Although I am not with you, my love's not denied
So wait patiently sweetheart till I can walk by your side.
Your face and your smile are what I long to see
I love you my baby, you're still part of me.

Les Whittaker



**Have you ever thought about
drawing or painting?**

Have you ever given it a try?

**Did you know we have an Art Group
in the Parish?**

**Why not come and join us
and see how easy and enjoyable it is?**

*We are a group of amateurs helping one another
to develop our various skills*

We meet every Tuesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
in Our Lady & St Peter's Parish Centre

For further information, phone EG 322562

Justice and Peace Group

Our ecumenical Justice and Peace Group is pleased to announce that it raised £3,292.06 from the 2011 Sleep Out held overnight on 2 July. This has been divided between Crawley Open House, The Easter Team, and Worthing Churches Homeless Project—£1,097.35 each. Thank you to everyone who contributed by sponsorship, sleeping out, or holding a collecting tin. Your support is much appreciated as are your weekly donations of tinned and packet food as well donations of clothes,

sleeping bags, blankets, flasks, etc, so needed all the year round. If you have large bags of items for Crawley Open House or Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group (trainers, sweatshirts, and jeans for men) please would you consider dropping them on the doorstep at 105 Halsford Park Road rather than bringing them to church—it just makes it a little easier transport-wise. Thank you.

With regard to the 2011 Operation Shoebox—again, thank you for your contributions; 300 boxes were sent to Montenegro from Our Lady and St Peter’s and St Bernard’s Churches, Moat UR Church, St Swithuns, 1st EG Scouts, The Meads School, and St Peter’s School. Montenegro—which means “Black Mountain”—borders Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Serbia’s breakaway province of Kosovo, and Albania. About half of it is covered in thick forest. The tiny republic encompasses an Adriatic coastline, lowlands, and high mountain ranges. The Tara River canyon is the deepest and longest in Europe. The population of Montenegro is 661,807. Montenegro became independent in 2006 and continues to make political and economic progress. However, 7% of the population remain below the poverty line and 14% are unemployed. The country officially applied to join the EU on 15 December 2008 but has to meet a number of criteria before being in full membership; environmental issues remain a matter for concern, as do human rights and judiciary. Last year, Samaritan’s Purse (Operation Shoebox) sent 20,246 gift-filled boxes to children in Montenegro. The items that are always hard to provide in quantity for Operation Shoebox are hats, gloves, and scarves—if any parishioners can buy or knit these throughout the year and stockpile them, I would be very grateful.

Parents, pupils, and parishioners will have seen men in hard hats and yellow jackets around the school in late November. Their arrival meant that the plan to install PVs (photo-voltaic panels) on the south-facing school roof is actually a reality after four years of form filling, grant applications, changes in government policy, and, more recently, disappointing changes to feed-in tariffs. It has been a frustrating journey and a steep learning curve, but thankfully St Peter’s got there in the end. PVs will allow sunlight to be converted into electricity for the school, which will considerably reduce energy bills. (Solar panels, which some people have installed, use sunlight to heat water). The installation of PVs was particularly well timed because the installation coincided with Switch-off Fortnight when staff, pupils, and parents are encouraged to ensure that doors are kept closed to stop heat escaping, and that all

electrical goods (including computers) and lights are switched off whilst not in use. Please do not leave items on stand-by.

St Peter's will receive a small tariff, or payment, for producing energy not used within the school (at weekends and in holiday time). A display meter will also be available for the children to see how much electricity is being produced; this will be located near the playground entrance to the school and information from this can be used for curriculum-based projects. The installation of PVs was a recommendation from Eco-Schools when St Peter's received its Green Flag in October 2009; it is now waiting for its two-year reassessment so that it can continue to display this and use the Eco-School logo on its letterheads. The Eco-Committee, composed of pupils, teachers and Governors, has an Action Plan to follow. This is available on the school website at www.stpeterseastgrinstead.co.uk. Thanks to West Sussex CC, Anesco (our installers), the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton, and the Governors for all their help and assistance with this project.

The J&P Group is organizing their annual Homelessness Service at 4 p.m. on Sunday 29 January at Trinity Methodist Church—please come and support us and show you care. The theme this year is Breaking Barriers, and the service takes place in Poverty and Homelessness Action Week. Prayer cards will be available soon.

Father, we thank you that Jesus came to break down barriers. He did not see the migrant or the settled, the housed or the homeless, the employed or unemployed; He saw and loved the person. Forgive us when we put up barriers between ourselves and others; help us show love to all without constraint.

Help us, your church, to build communities without barriers, where all are valued because all are made in your image. In Jesus name,
Amen

Homelessness UK-wide

People running frontline services such as day centres and soup runs have reported for some time that the number of people using their services is on the rise. The latest Government statistics show that homelessness applications and acceptances are up for the second quarter in a row. The figures also show that more people are becoming homeless as a result of their short-term tenancy coming to an end, demonstrating the insecurity

of the private rented sector, as well as suggesting that landlords are continuing to use the end of shorthold tenancies as an excuse to put up rents. Recent research by Shelter confirms the unaffordability of private-sector rents for ordinary working families in 55% of English local authorities. The information gathered puts the debate about Housing Benefit caps into stark relief. The average rent for a two-bedroomed property in London is £1,360 per month while the capped rate of Housing Benefit is £1,267.

Further disturbing news has been about the trafficking of homeless people. Gangs are reported to have been abducting homeless people from gathering places such as soup runs, forcing them to work for nothing and housing them in deplorable conditions. In response to this, Housing Justice (formerly, the Catholic Housing Aid Society, CHAS) has produced a simple leaflet, in English and Polish, warning both soup runs and the people they are feeding about the dangers of abduction and trafficking.

On the good-news front, the Government has announced their vision for ending street homelessness by rolling out nationally the No Second Night Out (NSNO) scheme, which has been piloted in London since April 2011. The scheme aims to ensure nobody is forced to sleep on the street for more than one night, and people becoming homeless can be helped before they spend a second sleeping rough (tel: 0870 3833333). NSNO sits alongside long-term homeless programmes.

Further information is available online from Housing Justice (www.housingjustice.org.uk).

Sue Joy

Fatima—my pilgrimage diary

I had never been to Fatima—Lourdes, yes, but never Fatima. I did not even know the story of Fatima, so when my Mum asked if I would accompany her on a short, private pilgrimage I said “yes” and started to read all that I could find about Lucia, Jacinta, and Francesco.

Thursday 6 October 2011

On arrival at Lisbon Airport, my Mum and I were met by John, who worked in the small, Irish family-run hotel that had been recommended to us, as it was only 100 metres from the Sanctuary. It was about 9 pm



when we actually arrived in Fatima, and the first thing we noticed was a steady flow of people all heading towards the Sanctuary while the bells from the Basilica rang out. John explained that at 9.30 pm each evening the international Rosary was said at the Capelina—the small chapel erected on the site of the apparitions of Our Lady.

Friday 7 October 2011

After breakfast we paid our first visit to the Sanctuary, a large open area with the Basilica to our right and a new church to our left which holds 10,000 people when the weather is bad. In front of us was the Capelina, where, throughout the day, Mass and the Rosary were constantly being said in different languages. From my left, leading to the Capelina was a paved pathway with people progressing along on their knees, saying their Rosary—a most moving sight. Lucia first prayed in this way when her mother was ill, in the hope that this penance would help her mother's recovery.

We took a gentle walk around the Sanctuary to get our bearings, visiting a chapel beneath the new church where exposition of the Blessed Sacrament was available 24 hours a day. We prayed our Rosary in private and then made our way to the museum where the story of Lucia, Jacinta,

and Francesco was told. We visited the Basilica, where the tombs of the three children now reside and watched as pilgrims threw white flowers on the tombs.

In the afternoon, we attended Mass in English at the Capelina and then headed back to our hotel for a short rest before dinner, following which we returned to the Capelina for the international Rosary. This was a wonderful service with each decade of the Rosary being said in a different language representing the pilgrims present. Everyone carried candles, hymns were sung in Portuguese, and we all joined in "Ave". At the conclusion of the Rosary, a large illuminated cross was carried from the Capelina around the Sanctuary, closely followed by the statue of Our Lady standing on a bed of white flowers. While we all processed around the vast area, the Fatima hymn was sung in Portuguese with all of us joining in the chorus of "Ave". When the procession finally returned to the Capelina, we concluded our prayers by singing "Salve Regina". It was all so moving that I constantly had a lump in my throat.

Saturday 8 October 2011

Being Saturday, there was an influx of pilgrims from other parts of Portugal, so everywhere became very busy and, sadly, rather noisy. We also assumed that, as the pilgrimage season in Fatima ended on 13



October (the date of the sixth and last apparition), people were arriving for this special anniversary.

We started our day with Mass in the new church (albeit in Portuguese), but it was easy to follow even if we did not understand a word of the sermon.

After lunch, John took us up to the village where the three children had lived. He introduced us to Jacinta and Francesco's cousins (also called Jacinta and Francesco), who run a small souvenir shop opposite the house in which Jacinta and Francesco lived. He then took us to Lucia's house and onto the well, behind the house, where the angel appeared to the children to prepare them for Our Lady's visits. Sitting nearby was a little old lady, dressed in black and saying her Rosary. John told us that this was Lucia's niece. Seeing these people still living in the village, so simply, really brought the story to life.

We once again ended our evening with the international Rosary but this time on a much larger scale because of the increased number of pilgrims. We managed to find seats on the steps of the Basilica overlooking the Capelina so had a wonderful view of everything. On this occasion, each decade of the Rosary was shared between countries to accommodate as many languages as possible, and the procession was such a wonderful sight because of the vast numbers involved. In fact, the head of the procession had finished its course before the last of the pilgrims had actually started! Again, we raised our voices singing "Ave" at the appropriate time and concluded the service with "Salve Regina".

Sunday 9 October 2011

Sadly, our final day!

Mass today was said by the Bishop from the steps of the Basilica. A procession had brought the statue of Our Lady from the Capelina to the side of the altar where She remained for the duration of the Mass. The Sanctuary and the steps of the Basilica were a sea of people—some trying to find a shady spot (because it was a very hot and sunny day), others just wishing to get the best view. We practised some of the music for the Mass beforehand; thankfully parts were in English this time.

Holy Communion, we thought, was going to be a logistical nightmare, but how wrong we were. The many priests and Special Ministers of the Eucharist distributing Holy Communion were escorted by an attendant



carrying a white umbrella for protection against the sun and so that they could be easily identified. They then positioned themselves at various spots around the Sanctuary. It all worked so well that any anxiety about receiving Holy Communion was soon quashed.

Finally, as Mass ended and the statue of Our Lady was taken back to the Capelina, all the pilgrims waved white hankies. It was a most moving scene and one that brings a lump to my throat every time I think of it (even now!).

Conclusion

I am surprised at how much this pilgrimage has affected me. I found it a really special time and one that has strengthened my devotion to Our Lady. If you have never been to Fatima, please go—you will not be disappointed.

Eleanor Johnson

Imberhorne School Sports Hall

As Imberhorne is one of the two main local schools, with around 1,700 pupils, many of the young people of the Parish attend (and many of the “not so young” went there in the past). Despite recently being classified by Ofsted as “Outstanding” it is the only school in West Sussex that

does not have a Sports Hall. We hope, however, to rectify this soon and anticipate that work will commence next summer.

West Sussex County Council have pledged £1.3 million to the project, and we are to raise £200,000, with around £70,000 being in the bank so far. These monies are as a result of various activities including the Heads Three Peak Challenge, Race Night, Quiz Evening, Auction of Promises, and numerous in-school events. The Facility will comprise a Four Court Sports Hall with Two Classrooms and a Multi Purpose Studio (for drama, dance, etc) as well as changing rooms, reception, first aid, and stores; however, depending on finance, it may have to be constructed in two or three stages.

The plan is that it will be available for all to use, so promoting sport and performing arts for everyone, and we trust that the wider community will both appreciate and support the project including members of the Parish. Future events planned include a Wine Tasting Evening (hosted by Majestic Wines) and a Whole School Sponsored Event with more to come.

Progress and more details are available on the school website (www.imberhorne.co.uk) and on Facebook ("Imberhorne Community Sports Hall Fundraising needs your help!"). You can also contact us by email (sportshall@imberhorne.co.uk) with any fundraising suggestions or offers to help.

Brendan Joyce

Now, a word about confession

"Receive the Holy Spirit. For those sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those sins you retain, they are retained." Jesus gave the power to forgive sins to the Apostles and their successors, the Bishops and Priests of the Catholic Church until the end of time. In recent times there has been a great decline in confession either because of fear or because much of the non-Catholic world (especially many schools of psychology) tell us that we are not sinful so that we can get rid of our guilt. Guilt should *always* be eradicated from our lives, but not in a *false* way. It is like putting a Band-Aid or plaster over a cancer to say that *everybody does it so*, therefore, we have no sin. When we violate the boundaries of another person we

should say *sorry from the bottom of our hearts as soon as we possibly can*, with the Holy Spirit aiding us. We can do nothing positive without the aid of the Holy Spirit! When therefore, we find it hard to approach another person to be reconciled we should confess our fear, weakness, and pride to the Holy Spirit in our hearts and ask his help for the power and courage to do what we have to do. Without personal reconciliation there lurks a cancer in the Soul! Apart from all this, God has given us a very wonderful sacrament to aid us in the struggle against sin in wilfulness in our hearts. We should use this sacrament *every time* we do something *egregiously bad* so that we can be *certain* we have the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit and his merciful forgiveness. Apart from that, we should, if we are really serious about our spiritual prayers, make a commitment to regular sacrament confession.

Unless we do something egregiously wrong we should not hold back from Holy Communion at Mass, *because* Holy Communion is *not a reward* for being *good*, but is the means, power, grace to make us good. Do you know that the general absolution at the beginning of Mass blots out all *guilt* for non-egregious sin, and so if we attend Mass faithfully and tell God we are sorry from the bottom of hearts, at the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass, we will always have a beautiful, clean soul. A clean soul and a clear conscious puts zest into our lives, makes us smile more, makes us more affectionate and outgoing and more merciful, more understanding, gives us a calm spirit, and allows us to rest peacefully at night. If, then, we do this at every Mass and do not commit egregious sin, why should we really go to confession before Easter and Christmas?

I am going to give you 10 reasons for each of you to consider: (1) Because Jesus said so. (2) Because when we confess to the priest it makes us more humble and also more forgiving and loving to others because we realize we are also sinners. (3) It is a spiritual necessity since there is so much more philosophical pollution and confusion in the modern world. Therefore if we do not prepare for confession, eventually we will rationalize our conduct and eventually *anything goes*. (4) It is a psychological necessity to get things off your chest—even in Greek mythology there was a king who dug a hole in the ground and spoke into it so that he could get everything off his chest, for he could trust no one with his inner-most thoughts. All priests are the spiritual fathers of all families and they are the ones to whom you can be *assured* of *absolute secrecy* and a sympathetic understanding of you. Sacramental

confession is not only a matter of confessing sins but of unwinding the perplexities of your life (eg the nice new secretary at the office !). (5) Like a car, each of us needs a periodic tune-up, a psycho-spiritual scouring of all unfinished business in our lives, otherwise we will let ourselves down at inopportune moments. (6) Confession helps us to achieve emotional maturity and balance. Do you know that in a recent psychological survey of people in the United States, practising Catholics were in much better mental health , with less suicide, less depression, less psychosomatic illness, greater ability to cope with tragedy, and more openness to forgiveness? (7) No sin is private since each of us is a cell in the mystical body of Christ which is the Church. When we sin we are all cancerous cells in the church and we have to be reconciled to the Church and receive Christ's healing power. (8) Confession can be a session of *spiritual direction*. By his office, a priest is the doctor of the soul, and by the prayerful laying on of hands and a waiting upon the Spirit, much unblocking can take place in our lives. Please read the book *The Power of Penance: Confession and the Holy Spirit* by Fr. Michael Scanlan. (9) Confession unblocks impediments to spiritual progress and revives the discouraged heart. For example, I remember getting a phone call from a visitor at one of the Masses, who she enjoyed our lively Masses with all the involvement of children, youth, and older folk. She wished she could attend regularly and be part of it all. I said, "What holds you back?" She said that she liked her sex life. "Well," I said, "you are part of the experience of a few of the great saints. Take St. Augustine, for example: for 20 years he prayed the prayer '*Lord, make me pure and chaste, but not yet*'." I eventually got her to confess from the bottom of her heart that she was sorry that she was not sorry. That is at least the basic and initial step to the road of grace to sanctity. The church has always been *too afraid* to embrace sinners, unlike Jesus who was never afraid of and never discriminated against sinners *unless* they were like the Pharisees who hardened their hearts and *refused* to acknowledge they were sinners. (10) There are three elements of reconciliation in all sin: *God, self, and neighbour*. Very often people can be held up spiritually for many years since they cannot forgive *themselves*—they go around with a guilt or fear, or live a life of half vigour (half-staff, half-mast), whereas Jesus has set us free to live life, and to live it abundantly *now*, not just when we die. Often people bear guilt about loved ones who have passed on: the priest can help you forgive yourself and set you free.

Father Peter ap Morris

Climbing Mount Kilimanjaro

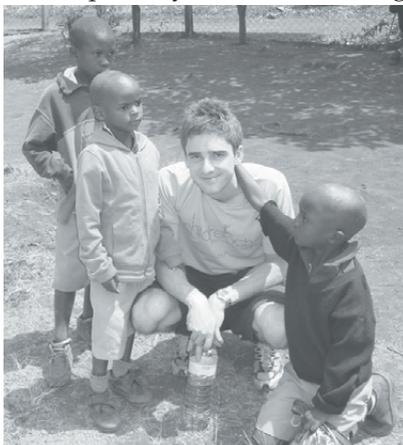
Some of you will know that I recently undertook for charity the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest point in Africa, with a group of students from university. I am pleased to report that I made it to the top!



That's me on the right!

The climb was all done in aid of Childreach International, a children's charity that operates in Tanzania as well as in other areas of the developing world. The trip started with a visit to one of the primary schools benefiting from the charity's involvement. I was touched by their limitless enthusiasm for life and education in particular, despite clear differences in wealth to that which I have experienced.

The climb itself took 5 days to go up, with just 1 day to come down. It included a gruelling 8-hour night-time ascent to the summit, starting at 11 pm. This part was probably one of the toughest few hours of my life, with dizziness and utter exhaustion occupying my whole body. But getting



to the summit made it all worthwhile. In our group it was pleasing to see that nearly all of us made it up, as we all provided motivation for each other.

One of my sources of motivation was the number of people who had been so generous with both their time and money in enabling me to reach my fundraising target. I was genuinely touched by how many people at St Peter's supported me. So thanks again to those who have sponsored me; it was an experience I will never forget!

Simon Hope

Wintershall Events 2012

Tens of thousands watched the Passion of Jesus in Trafalgar Square in 2011. See it for yourself in 2012 on Good Friday, 6 April, at 12 noon and again at 3.15 pm. Further details are available online (www.passionofjesus-traffic.co.uk) or by phone (01483 892167)

The Life of Christ will be held at the Wintershall Estate, Bramley, Surrey, from Tuesday 19 June to Saturday 24 June 2012 from 10 am to 4 pm. This is the greatest story of all time, movingly recreated by a cast of over 200, with authentic detail and outstanding-quality sound and music. Bookings and details available online (www.wintershall-estate.com) or by telephone (01483 892167).

Sue Joy

The Wintershall Nativity Play

Just before Christmas we went to the Wintershall Nativity Play and spent our evening being taken back to the (almost exact) way that the birth of Jesus happened.

It was a fascinating play, with some enthusiastic and cute cast members. The play opened in the field with Mary and Joseph and an adorable donkey. We were guided round to the stable where we meet the innkeeper; as in every nativity play, the inn is full and she lets them use the stable.

After that we were taken back to the field where the shepherds meet the Angel Gabriel who talks to them; they looked really afraid. The

shepherds and the audience are guided to the stable by a brightly shining star. We were welcomed to Bethlehem by the cast.

The rest of the play took place in a stable. I sat right at the front. The acting and singing was lovely, and the real baby was very good and cute.

The part in the story I was not so familiar with was when King Herod ordered the soldiers to kill all the children under 2. It was a bit frightening to think how evil he was. But he did burn in hell.

I just loved the whole experience and want to go again.

Finally, I loved the way it was a wise shepherd who guided you to the wc!

Lexie Chadd, age 10

Saints for Our Times

Sister Alicia Domon, Martyr, died 1977

During the period 1976 to 1983, a military dictatorship in Argentina conducted “a dirty war” against subversives and dissidents. Advocates of human rights and social justice for the poor were among the special victims of repression. At least 4,000 civilians were killed. Another 10,000 were “disappeared”—abducted by the military, never to be seen again. Two French nuns, Sisters Alice Domon and Leonie Duquet, were among them. Both were members of the Toulouse Institute of the Sisters of Foreign



Mission. Alicia Domon arrived in Argentina in 1967, part of the great wave of foreign religious who flocked to Latin America in the wake of Vatican II. At first they engaged in more traditional apostolates. Alicia worked with mentally disabled children. By 1969, however, she and other members of her congregation had moved out of their residence to live in an urban shantytown. Alicia supported herself by working part-time as a household help while otherwise ministering as a friend and sister to her poor neighbours. In the following years she spent much time in the countryside becoming acquainted with the struggle of the landless peasants, supporting and helping them to organize.

Back in Buenos Aires she became closely involved with the courageous group of women known as the “Mothers of the Disappeared”, who gathered in the central plaza each day, dressed in black and bearing photographs of their missing children. This mute but eloquent protest was for many years the only visible sign of dissent in Argentina. The conservative hierarchy of the Catholic Church remained largely silent, when not actually endorsing the military’s defence of “law and order”.

On 8 December 1977, Sr Alicia was preparing a retreat for the Mothers. After leaving a planning meeting, she and twelve other women were seized by armed men in civilian clothing. Two days later Sr Leonie Duquet was also abducted, apparently because she was sharing a residence with Alicia Domon. None of them was ever seen again, nor was there any official news of their fate. In 1995, a retired Navy commander described how he had been involved with “death flights”: groups of prisoners would be flown out over the ocean and tossed out. Several months before her disappearance, Alicia had written to the Archbishop of Toulouse, “I would ask you not to do anything to save me that would endanger others. I have already made the sacrifice of my life.”

To read more, see *All Saints* by Robert Ellsberg (New York: Crossroad Publishing, 1997).

(Acknowledgement to *Far East*, December 2011, the magazine of the Columban Missionaries)
submitted by Sue Joy

Gold

The Three Kings came with gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh for the Infant King.

Born a king on Bethlehem’s Plain
Gold I bring to crown him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

*This is the story of Fairtrade and Fairmined Gold,
announced on 14 February 2011!*

Gold is one of the world’s most prized commodities—a symbol of wealth and power. Early uses were no doubt ornamental, and its brilliance (it neither corrodes nor tarnishes) linked it to deities and royalty in early

civilizations. Gold, beauty, and power have always gone together. Gold is found throughout the world; it was the first metal widely known. It's the easiest to work and occurs in a virtually pure state so doesn't need smelting. Nowadays, it is used in everything from jewellery to food, aircraft engines to computers, and televisions to mobile phones. Air Force One—the US President's own jet—is protected from heat-seeking missiles by gold-plated reflectors.

In 2006, CAFOD published the report "Unearth Justice—Counting the Cost of Gold" and had a campaign highlighting the hazardous working conditions and grinding poverty endured by many people who mine much of the gold that ends up on our fingers or in our mobile phones. Indeed, on receiving their "gold" books in preparation for First Holy Communion, one group of children in the Parish asked where the gold came from. Hearing about the unjust conditions for the miners, they joined the campaign and handed over to a local retailer a paper gold-chain petition, made of links signed by lots of people, asking the retailer to ensure that the gold sold by its company benefited mining communities.



*Artist painting waterfall,
by Martin Payne
(Parish Art Group)*

Artist painting waterfall

Martin Payne

In association with CAFOD, the Alliance for Responsible Mining, and ethical jewellers, the Fairtrade Foundation devised a clearly defined set of standards for Fairtrade and Fairmined gold certification that must be fulfilled by miners' organizations. The standards cover issues such as working conditions, technology, health and safety, women miners and child labour, management of chemicals, and responsibility to the environment and the local community. Mining organizations are audited to ensure they comply with the standards. The miners receive the world price for their gold and a premium to invest in their community.

To date, nine miners' organizations, representing 2,500 miners and their families, are being certified under the Fairtrade and Fairmined standards. All of the current producer groups are based in Latin America—in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. Fairtrade and Fairmined gold has the potential to reach thousands more artisanal and small-scale miners worldwide.

To conclude, have you seen the cockerel on the spire of Chichester Cathedral recently? It has been gilded in donated Fairtrade and Fairmined gold leaf, that was worked in Florence. Do look out for it, and there's an exhibition in the Cathedral all about it. There's also a little shop in Chichester named CRED that knows all about Fairtrade and Fairmined gold. You can find out more, too, on the website (www.fairtrade.org.uk). Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

Margaret Vasey

High Flight

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds,—and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of—wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air. . . .
Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace

Where never lark, or ever eagle flew—
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

John Gillespie Magee, Jr

During the desperate days of the Battle of Britain, hundreds of Americans crossed the border into Canada to enlist with the Royal Canadian Air Force. Knowingly breaking the law, but with the tacit approval of the then still officially neutral US Government, they volunteered to fight the Nazis.

John Gillespie Magee, Jr., was one such American. Born in Shanghai, China, in 1922 to an English mother and a Scotch-Irish-American father, Magee was 18 years old when he entered flight training. Within the year, he was sent to England and posted to the newly formed No. 412 Fighter Squadron, RCAF, which was activated at Digby, England, on 30 June 1941. He was qualified on and flew the Supermarine Spitfire. Flying fighter sweeps over France and air defence over England against the German Luftwaffe, he rose to the rank of Pilot Officer.

On 3 September 1941, Magee flew a high altitude (30,000 feet) test flight in a newer model of the Spitfire V. As he orbited and climbed upward, he was struck with the inspiration of a poem—"To touch the face of God." Once back on the ground, he wrote a letter to his parents. In it he commented, "I am enclosing a verse I wrote the other day. It started at 30,000 feet, and was finished soon after I landed." On the back of the letter, he jotted down his poem, "High Flight".

Just three months later, on 11 December 1941 (and only three days after the United States entered the war), Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee, Jr., was killed. The Spitfire V he was flying, VZ-H, collided with an Oxford Trainer from Cranwell Airfield flown by one Ernest Aubrey. The mid-air happened over the village of Roxholm, which lies between RAF Cranwell and RAF Digby, in the county of Lincolnshire, at about 400 feet above ground level at 11:30. John was descending in the clouds. At the enquiry a farmer testified that he saw the Spitfire pilot struggle to push back the canopy. The pilot, he said, finally stood up to jump from the plane. John, however, was too close to the ground for his parachute to open. He died instantly. He was 19 years old.

Part of the official letter to his parents read, "Your son's funeral took place at Scopwick Cemetery, near Digby Aerodrome, at 2:30 p.m. on



WAAFS, by Tessa Darlison (Parish Art Group)

Saturday, 13th December, 1941, the service being conducted by Flight Lieutenant S. K. Belton, the Canadian padre of this Station. He was accorded full Service Honors, the coffin being carried by pilots of his own Squadron."

John's parents were living in Washington, DC, at the time, and the sonnet was seen by Archibald MacLeish, who was Librarian of Congress. He included it in an exhibition of poems called "Faith and Freedom" in February 1942. And after that it was widely copied and distributed. These copies vary widely in punctuation, layout, and capitalization, as I've found out from readers! The original is in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress, and I think I've transcribed it correctly. Note that most printed versions use "... even eagle", but the original seems to be "... ever eagle," with similar penmanship to the preceding "never."

"High Flight" was read over pictures of mountains and American flags

and fighter aircraft as a station closing video on US television stations. An excellent DVD of this video, with many people reciting the poem, is available from HighFlightProductions (www.highflightproductions.com).

Ronald Reagan, addressing NASA employees following the tragic loss of the Challenger 7 crew on STS-51L, used the poem in a well-remembered line:

“We shall never forget them nor the last time we saw them, as they prepared for their mission and waved good-bye and slipped the surly bonds of Earth to touch the face of God.”

submitted by Patrick Kiley

The green thing

In the line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment. The woman apologized to him and explained, “We didn't have the green thing back in my day.” The clerk responded, “That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment.” He was right—our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles, and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled. But we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning kilowatts—wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that old lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV or radio, in the house—not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded-up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working, so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the green thing back



The Home Guard,
by Tessa Darlison
(Parish Art Group)

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smartass young person.

Remember: Don't make old people mad—we don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to make us cross!

submitted by Debbie Coxall

Time to face up to peace

Youth today are accused of all sorts of misdemeanours. According to some adults "we" don't care about our environment, "we" are violent and dangerous, "we" don't want to know about peace. This is unfair and untrue. I have been going to protests all my life, and I am on the Eco-Council at school. I may be slightly biased as I was raised by pacifists, but I know that many of my friends feel the same way. I remember how a friend once asked me (and I quote) "What's the point of war and stuff!"

While it is true that there is a lot of violence amongst young people today, it needs to be remembered that young people learn this behaviour from adults. From an early age we are allowed, sometimes even encouraged, to play at fighting and war. Since the introduction of game consoles such as Playstations and Wii, violence is also learned through video gaming. And then of course there is a lot of violence on TV and in the media. These fighting techniques are being used on other young people at school and on the streets.

The fact is, like many Western nations, parents have created their own worst nightmares. After all, didn't they start the problems in Iraq and Afghanistan? Didn't they lead the way forward into climate change? And then, when everything turned against them, they blamed their children whom they modelled on themselves. To be fair, I am not saying all adults

are like this. Most of the adults I know are against war and want to help the environment.

Of course, hanging over all this is the shadow of war, which influences pretty much everything. I think it is sad to say that, for the whole of my lifetime (I am nearly 13), this country has been at war; surely this is childish! I believe our government is too stubborn to give into peace, too concerned with its own national interests rather than the common good of all. If we want a peaceful future for us and our own children, we need to learn from our parents' mistakes and face up to peace.

Beth Cole (age 12)

From *Justpeace*, No. 285, November–December 2011
(the magazine of Pax Christi)

My preacher's eyes

I never see my preacher's eyes
Tho' they with light may shine—
For when he prays he closes his,
And when he preaches, mine!

Anon

submitted by Hannah Cherry

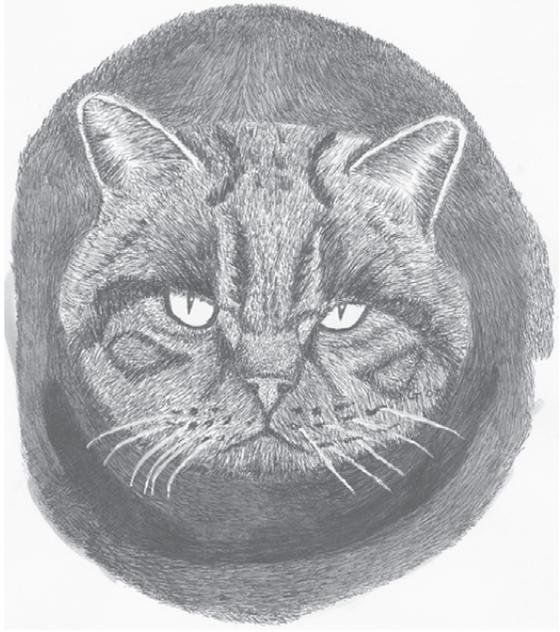
Political correctness

Apparently it's no longer politically correct to direct a joke at any racial or ethnic minority, so try this one:

An Englishman, a Scotsman, an Irishman, a Welshman, a Latvian, a Turk, an Aussie, a German, a Yank, an Egyptian, a Jap, a Mexican, a Spaniard, a Russian, a Pole, a Lithuanian, a Swede, a Finn, an Israeli, a Romanian, a Bulgarian, a Serb, a Swiss, a Greek, a Singaporean, an Italian, a Norwegian, a Libyan, a Muslim, a Hindu, a Buddhist and an African went to a night club.

The bouncer said, "Sorry, I can't let you in without a Thai."

submitted by Brigid Armstrong



Tigger, by Gordon Townsend
(Parish Art Group)

From pond to patio

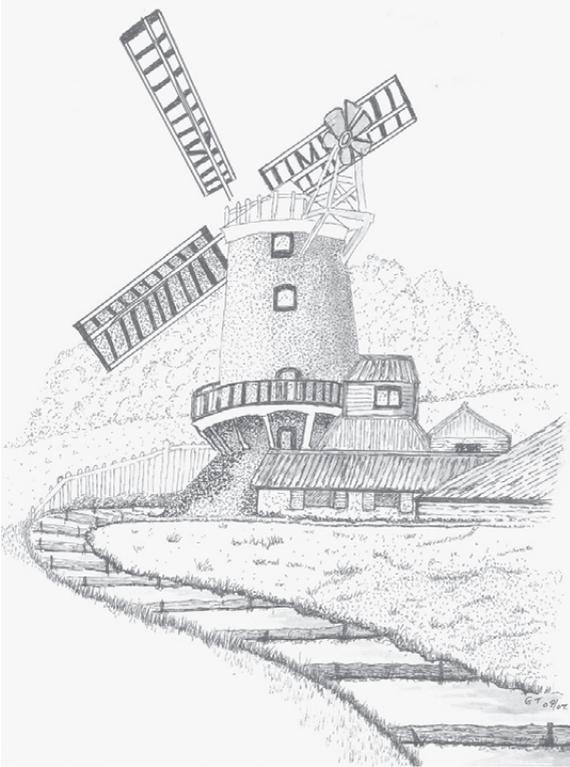
We put the pond in about twenty years ago, not long after we moved into the house. The garden had been featureless, so we decided to commission a landscape gardener we knew to present plans for the pond and surrounding planting.

The pond, which was oval in shape and about 3 metres by 2 metres, was positioned out from a corner of the garden, and this enabled us to have a tall, open timber frame behind it and make a secluded area for compost and sundries right in the corner.

All very exciting, especially when we set off to buy some fish and water plants, not forgetting the oxygenating weed to help things along.

We were constantly amazed at the arrival of waterboatmen, newts, frogs, and many other water lovers as time went by.

It was not long before we decided a pump would add to the interest as well as further oxygenating the water, so I dug a trench across the lawn and the electric cable was laid. This also serviced some lighting to provide another attraction.



Mill,
by Gordon Townsend
(Parish Art Group)

The pond provided a lot of fun and interest for many years—a constantly changing landscape of wildlife. Some of the changes were not to our liking: the heron began dropping in on a fairly regular basis, and to cover the pond with mesh and wires spoil the attraction. Duckweed arrived and tried to take over, followed rapidly by two grandchildren who, of course, succeeded in taking over. Water and toddlers can be a toxic mixture unless supervision is 24/7.

We thought about this for a while and decided that maybe we were a bit jaded with pond maintenance and could perhaps turn it into something more suitable for the present. You have guessed ! A small patio with table and chairs, and a completely novel and fresh view of the garden. Operation pond to patio commenced!

We removed the pondweed and plants, making sure to rescue any visible pond life such as dragonfly larvae and tadpoles. The pond was

drained into the shrubbery using the pump, and as the water level fell it was possible to catch the fish and the odd frog. These were transported to a neighbour who had three large ponds and could provide a happy home for our refugee fish. The liquid mud at the bottom was spread on the flower beds, and then the work of filling commenced.

In the deepest area I cut out a large circle of liner and spiked the remaining areas with a garden fork so we would have drainage. Rubble and stones were collected from around the garden and we were fortunate to have a newbuild next to us where the site manager was happy for me to wheelbarrow several loads of rubble away. The rubble was levelled to within about 4 or 5 inches of the original water level and then a bulk bag of sharp sand delivered from the builders merchant was levelled and compacted by me tramping up and down with my biggest boots on.

A straight-edge timber was used with a level to check the surface. Next, ten 300-mm × 300-mm paving stones were laid through the centre of the “pond” and levelled as they went down onto the sand.

The border between the paving stones and the original pond edge was covered with 20-mm diameter shingle. The original surround of the pond had been formed with large sandstone rocks, and three of these were taken out for the new access to the area and a step formed to come down from the level of the lawn. The three surplus rocks were placed as a feature at one end.

An important feature of the design is that, should the sand sink into the rubble over a period of time, you can simply lift the paving stones and level and re-lay them as no mortar was used in any part of the process.

We now take afternoon tea in a slightly sunken dell with a completely fresh view of the garden and wonder why we gave such a sunny spot to the fish in the first place !

For the technically minded costs were as follows:

One bulk bag sharp sand, incl. delivery	£59.95
Ten 300-mm × 300-mm paving stones	£29.90
Four bags 20mm diameter shingle	£28.00
Labour (of love)	<u>Free</u>
	£117.85

Not bad for a new patio !

David Tas

Yellow 24

A man goes into the doctors feeling a little ill. The doctor checks him over and says, "Sorry, I have some bad news. You have Yellow 24, a really nasty virus. It's called Yellow 24 because it turns your blood yellow and you usually only have 24 hours to live. There's no known cure, so just go home and enjoy your final precious moments on earth."

So he trudges home to his wife and breaks the news.

Distraught, she asks him to go to the bingo with her that evening as he's never been there with her before.

They arrive at the bingo, and with his first card he gets four corners and wins £35.

Then, with the same card, he gets a line and wins £320.

Then he gets the full house and wins £1000.

Then the National Game comes up and he wins that too, getting £380,000.

The bingo caller gets him up on stage and says, "Son, I've been here 20 years and I've never seen anyone win four corners, a line, the full-house, and the national game on the same card. You must be the luckiest man on Earth!"

"Lucky?" he screams. "Lucky? I'll have you know I've got Yellow 24."

"Heaven's above," says the bingo caller—"You've won the raffle as well!!!"

submitted by Brigid Armstrong

Don't mess with seniors

As the saying goes: "Don't mess with Seniors"

A lawyer and a senior citizen are sitting next to each other on a long flight. The lawyer is thinking that seniors are so slow that he could get one over on them easily. So, the lawyer asks if the senior would like to play a fun game. The senior is tired and just wants to take a nap so he politely declines and tries to catch forty winks.

The lawyer persists, saying that the game was a lot of fun—"I ask you a question, and if I don't know the answer, you will pay me only \$5. Then you ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you

\$500," he says. This catches the senior's attention, and he agrees to play the game.

The lawyer asks the first question. "What is the distance from the Earth to the Moon?" The senior doesn't say a word, but reaches into his pocket, pulls out a \$5 dollar bill, and hands it to the lawyer.

Now, it's the senior's turn. He asks the lawyer "What goes up a hill with three legs, and down with four?"

The lawyer uses his laptop to search all references he can find on the Net. He sends emails to all the smart friends he knows; all to no avail. After an hour of searching, he finally gives up. He wakes the senior and hands him \$500. The senior pockets the money and goes back to sleep.

The lawyer is going crazy not knowing the answer. He wakes the senior up and ask, "Well, what goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?"

The senior reaches into his pocket, hands the lawyer \$5, and goes back to sleep.

submitted by Sue Wade



Banana Boy,
by Tessa Darlison
(Parish Art Group)

Why

Why, why, why do we press harder on a remote control when we know the batteries are getting weak?

Why do banks charge a fee due to insufficient funds when they already know you're broke?

Why is it that when someone tells you that there are one billion stars in the universe you believe them, but if they tell you there is wet paint you have to touch it to check?

Why do they use sterilized needles for lethal injections?

Why doesn't Tarzan have a beard?

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks when you throw a revolver at him?

Why did Kamikaze pilots wear helmets?

Whose cruel idea was it to put an "s" in the word "lisp"?

If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?

Why is it that, no matter what colour bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?

Is there ever a day that mattresses are not on sale?

Why do people constantly return to the refrigerator with hopes that something new to eat will have materialized?

Why is it that no plastic bag will open from the first end you try?

How do those dead bugs get into enclosed light fixtures?

When we are in the supermarket and someone rams our ankle with a shopping cart, then apologizes for doing so, why do we say, "It's all right"? Well, it isn't all right, so why don't we say, "That really hurt, why don't you watch where you're going?"

Why is it that whenever you attempt to catch something that's falling off the table you always manage to knock something else over?

Why, in winter, do we try to keep the house as warm as it was in summer when we complained about the heat?

How come you never hear father-in-law jokes?

And my *favourite* . . . The statistics on sanity say that one out of every four persons is suffering from some sort of mental illness. Think of your three best friends; if they're ok, then it's you—who said the first three were ok.

submitted by Patrick Kiley

Parish Organizations East Grinstead

Altar Society: Flowers – Margaret Pond [327002]

Art Group: Tessa Darlison [322562]
(self-help group, meets on Tuesdays, 2 to 4 p.m.,
in the Parish Centre, East Grinstead)

Catenians: Phil Pentney (Membership Officer) [327109]

Catholic Women's League: Brenda Crannigan [712947]
(meetings second Wednesday of the month,
October to March: 3.00 p.m., April to September: 6.00 p.m.)

Children's Liturgy: Sarah Hill & Eileen Lyons [317424]
(at the 10.30 Mass on Sundays)

Choir: Mary O'Sullivan [322959]
(practice is held at 7.30 p.m. on most Fridays at the church
in East Grinstead; children's practice as announced)

Christian meditation group:
Gabrielle Joyce [326118] and Les Whittaker
(Thursdays, 7.30 p.m., term time)

Friends of St Peter's: Sam O'Neill (contact school [321985])
(monthly meetings in members' homes)

Gift Aid Secretary: Debbie Brook [328215]

Gospel of Life Group: Les Whittaker [315484]

Guild of St Stephen: Jim Fitzpatrick [317177]

Justice and Peace Group: Sue Joy [315440]

Lifts to Mass: Peter Wells [811543]

Lunch Club: Ivy Pimenta [323240]
(third Wednesday of the month in the Parish Centre, East Grinstead)

Mothers' Prayers: Jane DeCaestecker [311232]
(first Friday of each month after the 9.30 a.m. Mass)

Parish Magazine: Klara King [321581]

Readers at Mass: Sue Wade [317246]

Saint Vincent de Paul Society: Peter Wells [811543]

Welcomers: Robert McInnes [327582]

Times of Services

Our Lady and St Peter, East Grinstead

Saturday Mass: Vigil 6:15 p.m.

Sunday Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Weekdays: Morning Prayer: 9:15 a.m.; Mass 9:30 a.m.

Holy Days of Obligation:

Vigil 8 p.m. evening before the feast; on the day 9:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday, 10 to 10:30 a.m. and
5:30 to 6 p.m. and on request

St Bernard's, Lingfield

Sunday Mass: 9.00 a.m.,
preceded by Sacrament
of Reconciliation:
8.15 to 8.45 a.m.

Weekdays:

Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament: 9.00 a.m.
Morning prayer: 9.15 a.m.

