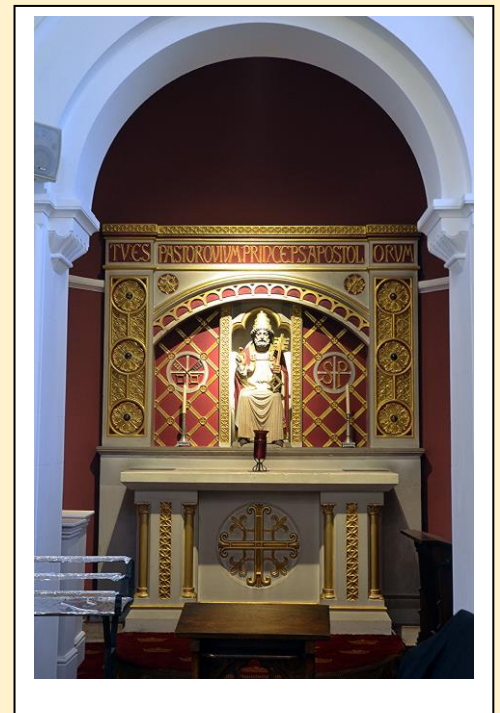
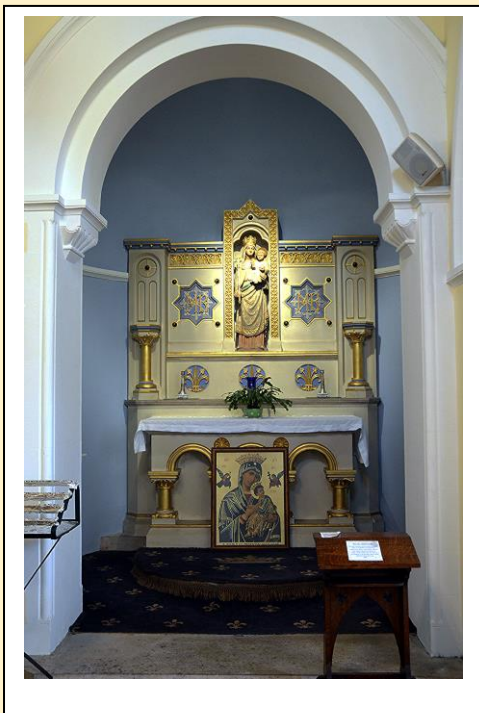
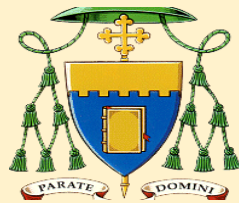


OUR LADY & ST PETER CHURCH

125th Anniversary

Concelebrated Mass by
The Right Reverend Richard Moth
and Father Jack Lusted

1 October 2023



Concelebrated Masses were held at St Bernard's Church, Lingfield at 9am and at 10.30am Our Lady & St Peter Church, East Grinstead to mark the 125th Anniversary of Our Lady & St Peter Church.

The people involved in delivering the Mass at Our Lady & St Peter Church were: -

Celebrants

Right Reverend Richard Moth

Father Jack Lusted

Altar servers

Daphne

Delon

Edwin

Jake

Josh

Tanya

Teon

Choir

Liam Bauress - Choir Leader and Organist

Brigid Armstrong

Jan Beaumont

Trisha Fitzpatrick

Christine Hardisty

Eleanor Johnson

Liz Siwicka

Janet White

Together with The Junior Choir from St Peter's School and The Junior Band led by

Julian Spencer

Readers

Liz Siwicka

Rosalind Turner

Altar Society Flower Arrangers for the Mass

Anne Davies

Anne Marie Newby

Jennifer Toome

Bell ringer

Larry Newman

Welcomers and Offertory procession

Danilo and Maribel Favor

(Danilo was the first Philippine-born town mayor in the UK and has been awarded The Pamana ng Pilipino Award and Presidential BANAAG Award. He also received a Community Service Award in 2014 from Mid-Sussex District Council for his active involvement in numerous community organisations.)

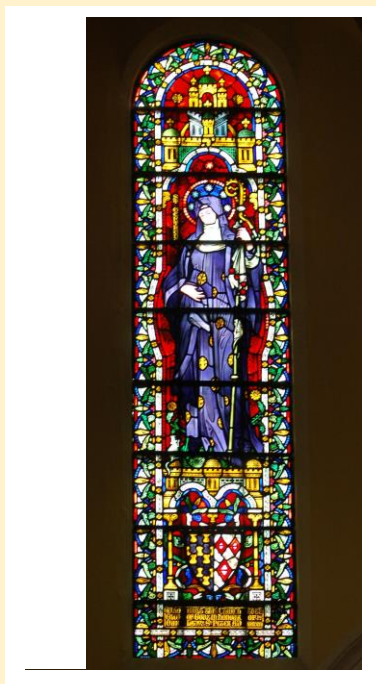
Our Lady & St Peter Church

In 1879, a Catholic mission was started in East Grinstead. It was served at first from Crawley and was dedicated to St Edward the Confessor and St Louis, King of France. It was founded by Sir Edward and Lady Gertrude Blount. The mission was centred in the chapel of Imberhorne Manor, the home of the Blounts. The chapel served as the Catholic Parish Church of East Grinstead for the next twenty years, with Franciscan Fathers coming from Crawley until 1884, when Father Frederick Edwards of the diocese of Southwark was appointed a Resident Chaplain. He left in 1888, and the Franciscans again served the mission until 1898.

In the late 1890s, Sir Edward and his wife Gertrude generously financed the building of a new Church in East Grinstead.

Our Lady and St Peter Church was built from 1897 to 1898 and designed by the Architect Frederick Walters. The foundation stone was laid on 15 June 1897 and the Church was opened on 2 October 1898. The Architectural style is termed French Romanesque Revival. The Church was consecrated by Bishop Bourne (later Cardinal) on 1st August 1899. The Bell was given the name of Mary, and blessed by him on 8th July 1901, on the feast of St Peter's Chains. The "Baptism of a bell" is an important liturgical function. The Bishop, having washed the bell with Holy Water, anointed it with the Oil of the Sick within, and with Chrism without; he then placed burning incense under the bell and prayed that its sound may avail to summon the faithful to the Church, excite their devotion, drive away storms and terrify evil spirits.

Stained glass windows were installed in the northeast chapel. They were made by Hardman & Co., given by the Blounts and dedicated to St Gertrude and St Edward.



Most of the fittings in the Church were designed by F A Walters. a nationally significant architect particularly known for the large number of Roman Catholic Churches to his name, many of them listed. He was also a successful and prolific designer of Church furnishings.

The Benefactors

Sir Edward Blount (1809-1905) came from a Shropshire Catholic family and was the son of Edward Blount the MP for Steyning in Sussex. In 1831 he founded the bank of Blount Père et Fils in Paris (merged with the Société Générale de Paris in 1870) and went on to finance the development of much of the northern French railway system. He was on the board of several railway companies (both French and English) and several banks. He lived in Paris for most of his life and was knighted for his services to the promotion of Anglo-French commerce, but spent his retirement years in Sussex

Lady Blount died in 1897 during construction of the Church.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1426322?section=official-list-entry>

The Centenary of the Church

At the time of the Centenary of Our Lady & St Peter Church the late Reverend Kevin Gaskin was the Parish Priest. He was the Parish Priest between 1984 and 1999. He died on 5th March 2014. Much of the Centenary Celebrations can be attributed to his energetic leadership, including 16 weeks of renovation, decoration, and electrical work including 68 lamps in iron chandeliers. A year of Parish events in 1998, culminated in The Centenary Mass on Friday 2nd October concelebrated by the Late Bishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, a Dinner Dance at the Felbridge Hotel on 3rd October and a Flower Show between 9th and 11th October in the Church, with floral displays by all Churches in East Grinstead. Later, Bishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor was appointed Cardinal by Pope John Paul II on 21 February 2001. He died on 1 September 2017 and is buried in Westminster Cathedral.

On 3rd September 1998, the Centenary Stained-Glass window, designed by Alan Younger, was installed in the Church and dedicated during the Centenary Mass by Bishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor. The four roundels, by their colouring, represent the four seasons and various festivals of the Church.



Top panel: **Spring** - a reference to Genesis

Second panel down: **Summer**. *A Chalice- the corn harvest - Eucharist - five red poppies representing the wounds of Christ. The red cross behind the Chalice XP being an ancient symbol for Christ*

Third panel down: **Autumn**. *Celebration of Our Lady, intertwined with white lilies and surrounded by twelve stars, keys and fish represent St. Peter*

Bottom panel: **Winter**. *An illustration of the Church, with seven doves representing the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the spiritual presence during the past 100 years.*

Father Jack Lusted

Deacon Jack Lusted was ordained a priest by Bishop Richard Moth for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton on 19 December 2018, in Arundel Cathedral.

Father Jack was born in Eastbourne and brought up in Hailsham where he went to school before attending Sussex University. He worked as a Physics teacher and then with British Telecom before entering Anglican ministry. After training in Oxford, he worked in various Anglican parishes across Sussex before he, with his family, made the brave decision to be received into the Catholic Church in 2014. Father Jack is married to Sarah and they had four children Martha, Isaac, Joseph and Esther.

Following his reception into the Catholic Church he was accepted for training for the Catholic priesthood at St John's Seminary, Wonersh, near Guildford, Surrey. He was ordained a Deacon in June 2018 and had been working as a Deacon in the parish of St Mary's, Crowborough until his ordination at Arundel Cathedral. He was appointed to Our Lady & St Peter's Church Parish in July 2019. His Installation Mass in the presence of Bishop Richard Moth was on 23 January 2020. Also on the altar were Fr Raymond Tumba (Crawley), Fr Francis Ezennia (Horley) and Deacon Tom Kent.



Rt. Rev. Richard Moth MA JCL KC HS

Bishop Charles Phillip Richard Moth is our Roman Catholic prelate.

Bishop Richard was born in Chingola, Zambia in July 1958. He was brought up in Kent and educated at The Judd School, Tonbridge. He first felt called to the priesthood when he was eleven or twelve years old and aged 18 began formation at St. John's Catholic Seminary, Wonersh. He was ordained a Priest on 3rd July 1982.



He served as assistant priest at St. Bede's, Clapham Park before pursuing studies in Canon Law at St. Paul University, Ottawa. In 1987 he was appointed assistant priest at St. Saviour's, Lewisham, during which time he also served as a Territorial Army Chaplain with 217 General Hospital RAMC(V).

He served as Private Secretary to Archbishop Michael Bowen from 1992 until 2001, during which time he was also President of the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Second Instance of Southwark and Vocations Director. In 2001 he was appointed Vicar General and Chancellor of the Diocese.

On 29 September 2009 he was appointed Bishop of the Armed Forces by Pope Benedict XVI. He is Chair of Governors at St. Mary's University, Twickenham, Liaison Bishop both for Prisons and for the National Catholic Scout Fellowship and holds a brief on Mental Health on behalf of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales.

In March 2015 he was announced as the 5th Bishop of the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton and was installed at Arundel Cathedral on 28 May 2015.

Bishop Richard has been a Benedictine Oblate for over 30 years and is a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, with whom he has travelled many times to the Holy Land.

He enjoys horse riding and walking.

Former Parish Priests preceding Father Jack Lusted

Shortly before the opening of the Church of Our Lady and St Peter, Father John Burke was appointed the first Rector of the Parish. Father Burke's Parish . . . embraced East Grinstead, with Forest Row and Felbridge, parts of West Hoathley, Worth, Lingfield, Cowden, Hartfield and Withyham.

- The Rev Joseph Mahoney, 1908–15, succeeded Father Burke
- Father Cooksey served until 1917, when he left to become a military chaplain
- The Right Rev Mgr. James Warwick, 1917–29
- Father Alfred Wright, 1929–41
- Father Charles P. Dolman, 1941–59
- Father Richard O'Regan, 1959–60
- Father Peter McPolin, 1960–68
- Father Gordon Simmons, 1968–84
- Father Kevin Gaskin, 1984–99
- Father Gordon Simmons, with Father Steven Purnell, 1999–2011
- Father Steven Purnell, 2011– 2019 who retired from our Parish to Holy Island in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle

Father Steven's final words recorded in the Parish Magazine, Spring 2019 ...

'So, I am off. In July and to Holy Island. I am fortunate, doubly. One, for being able to go and live on an island I've always loved and know like the back of my hand, and rich in history and shades of Vera. Two, for having twenty years in East Grinstead and three in Lingfield. The parish is so good and kind and welcoming that I tell folks that, very unusually, both my predecessors as parish priest came back to retire here. It must be good.

I have loved my years here; not that every day has been wonderful. There have been times when I am conscious of making big mistakes, not being sympathetic enough, being angry and being sad. But whenever I was baptising, celebrating Mass, giving out Christ's mercy, witnessing a marriage, anointing the sick or burying the dead or when I was receiving someone into the church or preaching the message of God's love and kingdom seen in Christ, then I knew I was surely in the right place and doing what God called me to do. I feel privileged to have served you and to have worked with you all. I am truly grateful for these years and for you being you.

I take away a lot of great memories and good friendships.'

Father Cyril Scarborough

Although never our Parish Priest, a notable person in our recent history was the late Father Cyril Praxedes Scarborough who died on 24 May 1985. He was ordained on 31 July 1932. He spent the last years of his remarkable life in East Grinstead as a retired priest assisting the Parish Priest at Our Lady and St Peter Church. However, his life experience was somewhat more exciting. He had served as Chaplain with the 4th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment in Great Britain and France and was taken prisoner at Dunkirk in June 1940. Although he was offered a place on a boat to England, he declined so enabling a married man to take his place and return to England. Considering it his duty to stay with the soldiers who could not be evacuated. The consequences of his decision were profound, and he spent the next 5 years in prisoner of war camps in Germany.

He was the Roman Catholic Chaplain in Laufen, Tittmoning, and Berlin, before spending the last 18 months of the war in Colditz. During his time in Berlin, on Sundays he went to POW camps with an armed escort, to say Mass for prisoners, dressed in his British army uniform complete with clerical collar. Astonished Berliners stared at him everywhere he went. He was also seen by slave labourers from Poland, Czechoslovakia and elsewhere, who looked at him with a gleam of hope in their eyes, because at that period England was the one hope of possible freedom for the whole continent.

Following his release in April 1945 he returned to England, and after some years, became Parish Priest at the Church of the Sacred Heart Caterham. During this time, he was officiating Chaplain to the Irish Guards at Caterham barracks, until they were replaced by the Coldstream guards in 1973.

In a final tribute at his Funeral Mass a piper from the Irish Guards played a lament. He is buried in the cemetery on Caterham Hill

Worth Abbey connection

The full name for Worth Abbey is The Abbey of Our Lady, Help of Christians.

Our Parish has been very well supported by Doms from Worth Abbey when the Parish Priest has been away. We thank them for their support over many years.

Worth Abbey is one of the thirteen monasteries of the English Benedictine Congregation, which is the oldest of the Benedictine congregations.

The Abbey of Our Lady, Help of Christians, commonly known as Worth Abbey, is a community of Roman Catholic monks who follow the Rule of St Benedict, near Turners Hill. The Abbey was founded in September 1933. Abbot John Chapman established a community of 17 monks as the dependent monastery, Worth Priory. The first prior of Worth, Dom Anselm Rutherford, chose Our Lady, Help of Christians, as the patron of the new monastery.

Worth Abbey is a daughter house of St Gregory's Abbey, at Downside in Somerset.

In 1957, under Abbot Christopher Butler of Downside, Worth Priory became an independent monastery. Dom Victor Farwell was appointed Prior and then elected the first Abbot in 1965, when the Priory was raised to the status of an Abbey. The community's first concern was to build the Abbey Church, which has been the heart of Worth since it was consecrated in 1975.

The life and work of the Worth community has been guided by six Abbots:

- Abbot Victor Farwell (1965-88)
- Abbot Dominic Gaisford (1988-94)
- Abbot Stephen Ortiger (1994-2002)
- Abbot Christopher Jamison (2002-10)
- Abbot Kevin Taggart (2010-13)
- Abbot Luke Jolly (elected 2013)
- Abbott Mark Barrett (elected 2021)

<https://worthabbey.net/monastic-life/history/>

In recent years, Dom James Cutts has often taken Mass at Our Lady & St Peter Church when needed.

He was previously Worth Abbey Parish Priest (2003 -2014)



Altar servers

Our present team of altar servers are a continuing legacy of the Master of Ceremony servers who have tutored and led them in this Ministry. From past, into recent, years, Mr Bill Billingham, Mr Colin Vine and, most recently, Mr Jim Fitzpatrick, held this role. Jim's tenure began in the early 1990s and continued until his death in 2017. Amongst his servers, Jim re-introduced the concept of membership in the Guild of St Stephen for which he held a special devotion. This Guild is the servers' special association, and its tenets are simple, but key, in promoting that serving should always be undertaken with reverence and understanding. Members are identified by the badge with its red collar that they wear when vested and, as our younger servers mature, they too will qualify for membership through enrolment

St Bernard's Church, Lingfield

Lingfield, Dormansland and surrounding areas became part of the Parish of the newly built Church of Our Lady and St. Peter in East Grinstead in 1898. The area has always been part of the Parish of East Grinstead, but at the time came under the Diocese of Southwark.

The actual building of St Bernard's Church began as a hut in April 1940 and was dedicated to St. Bernard of Clairvaux. The foundation stone for the present St. Bernard's was laid in 1957 and the new Church was built around the old hut. The Parish of East Grinstead and Lingfield is now in the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.

A number of Parishioners who live in East Grinstead or Lingfield do attend Mass at either Church. The same applies in relation to Worth Abbey. Many social or fund-raising events, such as those organised by the SVP in Lingfield, are supported Parish wide.

Musical tradition in recent times

At the time of the Centenary Mary O'Sullivan was the Musical Director having assumed that role in 1987 retiring in 2015 after many years' service to Our Lady & St Peter Church. Mary succeeded John Barnett and in turn she was succeeded by Liam Bauress.

Mary was inspired and taught by Janet McCleery for about 20 years. With her help and support Mary finally gained a degree in music. Along the way Mary taught Arthur Gibbons to play the organ and he was Chief Cantor. Eleanor Johnson provided great support and continues to do so. A lighter style of music was introduced to appeal to children. Cathy McCall learnt to play the guitar and other musicians joined, most notably Denis Pimenta and Julian Spencer. Musical support has included guitarists, accordion, flutes, oboist, clarinet, saxophone, violin and piano. Julian Spencer suggested a children's band which then progressed to performing at monthly Sunday Mass during term time at Our Lady & St Peter Church. Two of them moved on to become professional musicians.

After Mary O'Sullivan retired as organist, her legacy was continued of having the Junior Band and the Folk Band play at the Sunday Mass once a month, during term time. The Musicians being: -

Julian Spencer

Mary O'Sullivan

Denis Pimenta

Mary O'Sullivan only retired as organist. She took up the cello and is a staple of the Junior Band as well as playing the recorder in the Folk Band. The old upright piano, originally a gift to the church, was replaced by Liam's Roland V-Piano, which can always sound like a well-tuned Steinway. This made 'directing from the keyboard' much easier when the musicians were assembled at the front. The Junior Choir at Saint Peter's School was gradually built up to take a major lead in the singing at Sunday Mass once a month.

They even performed twice at the Charity Concerts in Trinity Methodist Church, held in aid of the Street Pastors. George Daly and Liam Bauress wrote a little musical for the Junior Choir about caring for the Earth, called The Eco Show, which they performed for their parents and classmates at the school. Then there was a three-year COVID hiatus. Understandably, the Junior Choir were the last group to return to Sunday Mass as we all recovered from the Pandemic. In December 2022, it was such a joy to have the school Carol Service and Nativity Play back in the Church.

The Junior Choir is being gradually built back up, now with the professional musical help of Fionnuala Quinlan, the new Year 6 Class teacher.

Another choral development in the Parish is the Lingfield Schola, consisting of all the cantors from Our Lady & St Peter Church and St Bernard's as well as some cantors from St Peter and Paul's, Lingfield. They first came together for the St Bernard's Carol Service 2022 and unanimously wanted to have a 2023 Carol Service as well as performing somehow in the meantime. So, the boat was pushed out and a concert of Holy Week music was given on Palm Sunday. If we are not careful, some traditions may be established.

All the various music groups were primed to perform at the Bishop's Mass on 1st October, celebrating the 125th Anniversary of Our Lady and Saint Peter Church.

At St Bernard's Church the choral tradition in recent times has been satisfied by: -

Mary Goodwin
Marissa Holgate
Frank Lilley
Judy Lilley
Kathy Morgan
Bernard Sumner

In previous years some had been members of Our Lady & St Peter Church choir.

Reception to mark the 125th Anniversary

Moat Road United Reform Church kindly made available their Hall for the Reception held after the Mass at Our Lady & St Peter Church on 1 October 2023.

The Reception was organised by the East Grinstead Catenian Circle using the services of Elliott Jones Catering and wine purchased from Majestic Wine.

Joan Jefferis very generously baked a special Anniversary Cake and a smaller gluten free cake. The cakes had images of the Church on the top and stained-glass windows around the sides.



Great interest was shown in attending the Reception with 136 adults and 21 children expected to attend the Reception. No count was taken on the day but the Hall was packed with both young and old.

Acknowledgements:

Pictures:

*Stained Glass Windows and exterior view of Our Lady & St Peter Church – Denis Pimenta
Dom James Cutts and Father Jack Lusted– Wladek Koch*

Input:

Liam Bauress

Liam Cherry

Trisha Fitzpatrick

Wladek Koch

Eileen Lyons

Chris Pond

Mary O'Sullivan

Extracts from Parish Magazine