



CATHEDRAL DEANERY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

CLERGY MOVES

Since the last edition of this Newsletter we have said farewell to Fr Charles Howell, who has left Storrington to take up a new appointment in Surrey. We will all miss him a great deal: he has played such an important role not just in Storrington, but throughout the deanery. We wish him every happiness in his new parish.

Fr Charles' place at Storrington has been taken by Fr Stephen Dingley. I will let him introduce himself in his own words, but we are delighted to have him in the deanery. At present he is caring for the Parish of Storrington, but later in the year – probably about May – he will also take over as Dean of the Cathedral, and act as Pastor to the two communities of Arundel and Storrington. At the same time Canon David will leave the Cathedral to take up a new appointment in Brighton - and we will miss him a great deal, too.

So this is a time of change, and I know that all three of these priests will greatly value your prayerful support.

Canon Peter Newsam, Dean

FR STEPHEN DINGLEY WRITES:



I grew up in Banstead, in the north of the diocese, and attended the John Fisher School in Purley. At university I studied natural sciences and did research in astronomy, studying giant radio galaxies. Following that I trained for the priesthood at the Venerable English College in Rome and was ordained in 1997.

I worked as assistant priest in Haywards Heath and Bognor Regis before being appointed to the staff at St John's seminary, Wonersh, where I taught theology for 17 years until its closure in 2021. In 2018 I was appointed Parish Priest of Effingham and Fetcham.

In January this year I moved to Storrington in preparation for taking up the role of Dean of Arundel Cathedral with pastoral care for Storrington as well.

My interests include the relationship of science and religion, music and walking.

Cathedral Deanery Lent Reconciliation Services

*A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.*

**Our Lady
of England,
Storrington**
4pm, Sunday
17 March

**Our Lady
of Sorrows,
Bognor**
7pm, Tuesday
19 March

See your local parish
newsletter or website for
regular opportunities to
receive the Sacrament.



See pp2-3 for developments relating to the Pastoral Plan and what is happening in our deanery as it moves towards becoming a moderated parish.

THE PASTORAL PLAN

NEW MODERATOR ANNOUNCED

Bishop Richard has announced that when, in due course, the Moderated Parish is formally erected, comprising the parishes that currently make up the Cathedral Deanery, he will appoint Canon Peter Newsam as the Moderator of the clergy team.

CANON PETER WRITES:

As you will, I hope, already know, this Deanery will be one of the first to make the change from being a deanery comprising several parishes (at the time of writing: Arundel; Storrington; Bognor Regis and Slindon; Our Lady and the Saints of Sussex; Petworth and Midhurst) to becoming a single parish, served by a team of priests (each of whom is, to all intents and purposes, a parish priest) whose work will be co-ordinated by one of the priests designated 'Moderator'. This is quite a new concept for us, and exactly what it means in practice will become clearer as we go forward. You can read more about it in the [Pastoral Plan](#) itself.



Why are these changes being made? This is explained in detail in the Pastoral Plan, but essentially this new structure will make us better able to put into effect the Mission of the Church, the Mission of sharing the love of God with all people. The structures that we are so used to have served us well, but the world is changing. We need to be able to engage with the world as it is today, and the people of today, who so badly need the Word who is Life. The restructuring of our existing deanery into a single parish is not an end in itself - it is a tool to make us better able to live as disciples of the Lord and witnesses to his love and mercy.

Does this mean that we will see different priests each week for Sunday Mass? No, the plan is that each priest will continue to celebrate Mass in the particular communities under his care, so that we can enjoy the continuity that we all value so much. We will try to support each other as much as we can, and there may be times that we are able to cover for one another, but in general you will probably not notice a change in this respect.

Will the Mass times change? No one likes change, especially change as fundamental as the times of Holy Mass. The plan itself does not envisage changes to Mass times, and if the number of priests remained constant things could continue much as they are. BUT in reality as the number of priests available continues to decline, it is inevitable that there will need to be some changes. This is an uncomfortable fact that we cannot avoid.

How will lay people be involved? As I say, this is a very new concept, and we will need to feel our way carefully. All the clergy in the existing deanery are keen that we should involve the lay faithful of the deanery in the process of change, as well as in the running of the new parish in the future. There will be some particular experiences that you have, and expertise, that we will need to draw on. We are fortunate that the Diocese is putting a great deal of time and effort into supporting us. It is in the interests of us all — and all those people who so badly need to hear the Good News, and all the generations of future disciples yet to be born — that we make real the vision our Bishop has set before us, the vision of our parishes as ‘communities of saints’ and ‘schools of discipleship’ (see [Pastoral Plan 2024, point 1.5](#)).

We will try and keep you informed of what is happening as we go along. In March there will be a gathering of representatives from the parish core teams from across the deanery, and we will be able to listen to some of their comments and questions, to set out for them the progress made so far, and to hear from them their hopes and anxieties. This will help us to identify the issues that need to be addressed most urgently. Clearly, one of the first tasks must be to work out a clear and effective means of communication across the whole of the new parish, and we will be using the skill and experience of our diocesan Communications team to help with this.

There is a lot of work to be done. But please bear with us if the rate of progress does not seem as fast as you might hope. All the members of the clergy team are also working in busy parishes, and many of them also have substantial diocesan commitments. The lay people who work with us are also busy women and men. We will all do the best that we can: this is such an important step forward, we need to act decisively, but carefully. It is the Lord’s plan that we need to implement: not mine, not yours. The world needs the Good News; we are the particular frail earthen vessels that he has chosen to entrust it to at this particular moment in time. We are the ones who have been sent.

“The same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!” Romans 10:12-15

MOTHER GOOSE IN BOGNOR REGIS

The 27th annual parish pantomime in the Parish of Bognor Regis & Slindon took place during February half-term, in Bognor Regis. This year’s production, Mother Goose, certainly saw the goose lay the golden egg: after all expenses had been accounted for the organisers were pleased to report a record profit of £2,265.56. Raising money is not the principle reason for putting on the annual show: that remains, as it always has been, to draw people of all ages together from across the Parish for months of fun and laughter in rehearsal and, hopefully, to share that joy with the wonderful audiences. This year there were 36 people in the cast, the youngest being 6 years old and the eldest nearer 80, plus many people working behind the scenes.

The organisers wished to thank everyone involved in the production but most of all everyone who filled the auditorium for each performance. They made all the difference: Oh, yes, they did!

With thanks to Liz L for this report.



From left: Fr Chris Bergin as the bailiff, Lock; Peter Loose as the greedy Squire and Jo Dickinson as another bailiff, Don Key.

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

The Promise of the Father is an exciting new course designed specifically for our diocese, in support of *The Word Who is Life* Pastoral Plan. The course aims to help us to live our lives empowered by the Holy Spirit. It is held over seven sessions, each with a renowned speaker and small group discussions. It starts on 10 April 2024 and runs until 23 May.



You can attend online, or in person at Arundel Cathedral Centre and the course is completely free of charge. There are many excellent speakers including Michelle Moran, Bishop Richard, Fr Rod Jones and Fr Graham Ricketts and the course includes a Pentecost Vigil Mass in Arundel, with Adoration and a chance to receive prayer for the filling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

The Promise of the Father promises to be an exciting, enriching and life-changing experience. Spaces in the venue and online are limited so early booking is essential. For more information and to book, visit catholicparishofworthingandlancing.co.uk or email dabcdsc@gmail.com.



YOUNG PARISHIONERS' TESTIMONY ON ADORATION

In the new Pastoral Plan, Bishop Richard asks every parish to hold regular Holy Hours to pray for the future of the Diocese. In January, two young parishioners from St Richard's Church, Chichester, in School Years 5 and 6, spoke to congregations at St Richard's and Our Lady's, Bosham, about why they take part in Adoration every week, why it is important to them and why they hope other people will want to take part too.

Do you like Adoration? 'Yes! Adoration is peaceful, I like talking to the Lord. It will make you feel better and a bit stronger after Adoration. Yes, that's the reasons I like adoration because Jesus is in the Blessed Sacrament and that's what we focus on.'

What do you do at Adoration? 'When I'm at Adoration, I usually start praying with my rosary. I go through each bead thinking about the different stories from the Bible and talking to Jesus and Mary. I also pray for my loved ones and my grandpa who is already with Jesus!' 'I pour out my heart to Christ and adore him, sometimes I pray the rosary or just sit quietly. It's good to be in the presence of God.'

Maybe some people think Adoration is hard. Do you think so? 'It is not difficult when you talk to Jesus with our open hearts. Grown-ups might come for longer, even an hour, but when you're a child, even five minutes of sitting with Jesus is a good goal. You can have surprising results!' 'I agree! And I don't think it's hard because I know what to do. Maybe some people even think that Adoration might be boring... I do find it a bit difficult when I'm tired.'

Do you ever find it boring? 'I think Adoration is full of wonderful feelings and thoughts but it is when daily life sets in, it can make it feel not so special. Maybe going to Adoration for the first time can be difficult but our faith is what God will be working on in us. Adoration is a really good way to pray and get closer to God.' 'I think so too. I think more people should come to Adoration because it will bring you closer to God!'

Will you come and spend some time with Jesus?

CATHEDRAL DEANERY PARISH WEBSITES

Arundel: arundelcathedral.uk

Bognor with Slindon: bognorcatholicparish.co.uk

Chichester, Selsey, Bosham & Witterings:
saintsofsussex.com

Petworth & Midhurst: petworthcatholic.org

Storrington: ourladyofengland.parishportal.net

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