



CATHEDRAL DEANERY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

My dear friends,

This latest Deanery Newsletter comes to you at a time of change. As you will see, Fr Chris and Canon Tom are leaving Bognor and Chichester respectively, and we are fortunate to have two priests coming to replace them. This means that the clergy team for the deanery – and in due course, the moderated parish – will be in place by the end of September. The seven of us who will make up the new clergy team (five priests and two deacons—*pictured below*) met at the start of July, and it was a really positive time. We are all looking forward to working together and supporting one another.

The day after that meeting, I met with the secretaries and administrators of the deanery parishes. We are so lucky to have such competent and committed people working in our parishes, and there was a great sense of mutual support and commitment there, too. Both of these meetings were very positive and encouraging.

I would like to explain briefly what will happen next: in September, once the new clergy team is in place, we will begin to meet more frequently than we have done in the past to begin planning for the future. One of our first steps will be to involve lay people from our parishes who have the gifts and talents we will need to move forward the implementation of the Pastoral Plan. We will begin to gather together specific groups from across the deanery so that people can share experience and co-operate on future planning.

Initially you may not notice a great deal of difference in day-to-day parish life, and you will continue to relate to your local church community in the first instance – through the existing parish office, and the existing local clergy as at present. In due course, once the clergy and lay implementation teams feel we have a workable plan to collaborate on prayer, formation and mission, we will ask the Bishop to turn the existing deanery into a single parish.

We will keep you updated as we move forwards, of course. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer. And thank you all so much for your ongoing prayers and support,

Fr Peter Newsam, Dean



Left to right: Fr David Osborne, Fr David Murphy, Canon Peter Newsam, Fr Nick Harden, Deacon Roger Stone, Fr Stephen Dingley, Deacon Jon Harman.

CLERGY MOVES

Farewell to Canon Tom Treherne & Fr Chris Bergin

On 8 July, Canon Tom Treherne bade farewell to the Parish of Our Lady & the Saints of Sussex, after seven years as Parish Priest, and moved to the Parish of East Preston, while in September, Fr Chris Bergin will move to Ashstead, Surrey, after nine years as Parish Priest of the Parish of Bognor Regis with Slindon. In due course Fr Chris will become Moderator of the new moderated parish there. Canon Tom has also become chaplain to the Poor Clare Convent at Crossbush.

Welcome to Fr Nick Harden, Fr David Osborne & Deacon Roger Stone:

Fr Nick Harden will join Fr David Murphy in the Parish of Our Lady and the Saints of Sussex in September, and Fr David Osborne will replace Fr Chris in the Parish of Bognor Regis with Slindon. Deacon Roger Stone is also recently arrived in the Deanery. During this summer, Fr Ben Okon, a Nigerian priest who is a Missionary of St Paul, is also based in Chichester.

FR DAVID OSBORNE WRITES...

I'm delighted to be joining the Cathedral Deanery at a pivotal moment in the life of the Diocese - and the Deanery - as we become one, moderated, parish. Before I was ordained I served in the Royal Navy as an electrical engineer. I was married in 1982 to Helen - a girl from Chichester. We have two children who have now got 5 children between them - a wonderful joy.

I was ordained in 2002 and served for eight years in Ash and Heath End, near Farnham, in Surrey. After that I moved with Helen to Cranleigh for a very happy 11 years which were brought to a sudden end by her illness. The next two years I was privileged to be at her side as she fought brain cancer - a battle she ultimately lost just as 2023 began. Since then I have been coming to terms with her passing and have been 'covering' in parishes during absences and time out for their priests.

The Bishop asked me to be part of the new team serving here in this part of Sussex and it is something that I'm looking forward to very much. I'm also looking forward to getting to know you better as time goes on and, working together, to continue the excellent work of my predecessor, Fr Chris. Large shoes to fill! Here's to a new chapter for us all.

FR NICK HARDEN WRITES...

Following nine years studying Chemistry and carrying out research in Universities in Bristol, Melbourne, and Florida, I spent thirteen years teaching in secondary schools. Although I was incredibly good at ignoring God's call to Priesthood, I did eventually listen and respond, spending five years in formation at St John's Seminary, Wonersh, and one year at Allen Hall, Chelsea. My first appointment was as Assistant Priest in St Dunstan's, Woking, and St Hugh of Lincoln, Knaphill, not far from Farnborough, where I grew up. Although it is difficult to leave Woking, I am excited and looking forward to working with Fr David in Chichester and making that big move from Surrey to Sussex.

DEACON ROGER STONE WRITES...

Hello! My name is Roger Stone and I am a deacon of the Diocese. I was ordained in Our Lady of England Priory Church, Storrington, in 2005 and from 2006 I enjoyed four rewarding years as Parish Deacon for Billingshurst with Pulborough. For nine years from 2010 I was the Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) port chaplain for Southampton and the South Coast, ministering to thousands of incredible seafarers from around the world. I have recently completed a degree course in Welsh language and literature at Aberystwyth University, which was fascinating. Susan, my wife, and I returned to the Diocese earlier this year and I am thrilled that Bishop Richard has kindly appointed me to serve in the Cathedral Deanery.

I am looking forward very much to working with everyone to realise the ambitions of the Pastoral Plan and build God's kingdom here in West Sussex.

DEANERY CONFIRMATION MASS

On Sunday 2 June, the Feast of Corpus Christi, Bishop Richard confirmed 42 young people from our deanery. They were supported by many friends and families, as well as deanery clergy and catechists. Servers from Arundel and the Witterings and a choir drawn from all of our deanery parishes participated in the Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Richard told the candidates: "Today, those of you being confirmed take a very significant step on your journey with Jesus. In the first reading today, Moses says to the people



be obedient. Hmm. What does the word 'obedience' conjure up in most of our heads? Particularly, perhaps for those of us who are still working our way through the journey of school, obedience gets associated with keeping rules and regulations doing as we are told. The word 'obedience' has a different root from that. The word 'obedience' relates to listening. Listening to what God has to say to us. And if we listen to God in our lives then we naturally want to do what God wants. Your journey of faith, a life spent with Jesus, is about listening to him and growing ever closer to him."

PARISH FAMILY SUPPORT FUND – MAKING A DIFFERENCE

(Formerly known as the Parish Community Fund)

In 2022, a headteacher from one of our local Catholic schools revealed a troubling reality: children were coming to school without enough food or basic necessities because of family crisis such as redundancy, debt, domestic violence, or illness. Responding quickly, the Family Support Fund began providing Tesco vouchers to help affected families buy food or essentials for Christmas and Easter.

The Fund operates from the Parish of Our Lady of the Saints of Sussex and in partnership with priests, headteachers and school welfare officers from St Richard's School, Chichester; St Mary's, Bognor; St Philip's, Arundel, and St Philip Howard School, Barnham, to support families identified as struggling, especially during holidays. Vouchers ranging from £50 to £250 are given out based on assessed needs.

Generous donations from the Catenians and parishioners across the deanery have enabled the Fund to make a significant impact. Last year, it helped 120 families, totalling £20,000 in vouchers between Easter and Christmas. A heartfelt letter from one recipient last Christmas captures the effect of this support: *"This has helped me so much, left me feeling very emotional. It will make such a difference to the children's Christmas and really lifts away the stress of how to afford the extras that Christmas brings".*

Donations can be sent to the Saints of Sussex account: sort code 40-05-20, a/c 41076582, reference 'PFSF' or via the saintsofsussex.com website. Your contributions, whether through donations or prayers, make a meaningful impact on the lives of those who need it most. Thank you for your support.

CATHEDRAL DEANERY PARISH WEBSITES

Arundel: arundelcathedral.uk

Bognor with Slindon: bognorcatholicparish.co.uk

Petworth & Midhurst: petworthcatholic.org

Our Lady & the Saints of Sussex: saintsofsussex.com

Storrington: ourladyofengland.parishportal.net

For all the latest news from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton, sign up for the weekly diocesan E-Bulletin, via abdiocese.org.uk.



The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878.

ST RICHARD'S, CHICHESTER, IN THE NEWS

In Holy Week, ITV visited St Richard's, Chichester, and filmed a news item on the artwork the church houses, in particular the Loire glass windows. As they reported, "St Richard's Church has the most extensive use of Loire glass in Britain and attracts and worships and visitors from far and wide."



A GoPro camera left in situ during the Palm Sunday procession at the 9.30am Mass filmed the congregation pouring in, and later in the week, a team interviewed Canon Tom Treherne; Parish Administrator, Amy Owen; and parishioner and Historic Churches Committee member, Anne Bone. They had the opportunity to speak not only about the church building and the community but also about the redemption won for us by Christ through His Death and Resurrection. The piece was broadcast on Holy Thursday.

Visit itv.com/watch/news/the-church-that-tells-the-story-of-saint-richard-and-celebrates-with-a-modern-masterpiece-inside/3szzf0j to watch the report.

SILVER JUBILEES! CANON PETER NEWSAM, FR PETER JOHNSTONE & FR CHRIS BERGIN

Canon Peter Newsam and Fr Peter Johnstone reached their 25th anniversary of priestly ordination on 23 April. Canon Peter celebrated with Mass and a reception for brother clergy, religious, parishioners and guests in Midhurst. In his homily, he spoke of the gift of priesthood:

"The simple message that I want to share with you is that it is a truly remarkable, beautiful, extraordinary thing this gift of priesthood. God takes - forgive me, brothers - very ordinary men and uses



Canon Peter and family, with Sr Johanna RSM



Fr Chris and his marvellous cake!

them, through His grace, to do remarkable things: to heal, to forgive, to feed, to console, to challenge - and, above all He uses us to be the pathway by which other people enter into the mystery of God Himself. After all these years, every time I think about this in any sort of depth, I feel completely overwhelmed. It is a good thing to be a priest: in fact it is more than that, it is a great thing; it is a great thing to be a servant of the children of God."

On the evening of 17 July, Our Lady of Sorrows, Bognor, was packed with parishioners, family and friends for Fr Chris Bergin's Silver Jubilee. There was a wonderful, loving and supportive atmosphere, and following the beautiful Mass there was a tremendous spread in the hall.

In a message sent to be read out at the Mass, Bishop Richard said "We celebrate today your generous response to the Lord's call to share in his Priesthood and rejoice in your life of priestly service. As you look to the future, may the Lord continue to bless you in all you do for Him and for His Church."