

## **MAY LETTER FROM FR. MARCUS.**

*When the day of Pentecost came, the disciples were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

My Dear Friends,

As we approach the end of May we will be celebrating the great feast of Pentecost. It is at the very heart of our Christian faith, and the theme is a turning point for many in their spiritual lives.

I remember, during my time in Findon Valley we had links with churches in Nigeria, and we were visited by a Nigerian Bishop (whose name sadly escapes me). He was an awesome man, huge, with such a presence, and a powerful deep voice. He told us of his arrival into the U.K.

"As soon as I got here I had a choice to make", he said. "I got off the aeroplane and had to go either through the green route (nothing to declare), or the red route. Of course I went the red way. When I was stopped and asked what I had to declare, I boomed at the top of my voice 'I declare that I love the Lord!'"

You can imagine, the church was thrilled with this style of sermon. He went on to tell the whole story. How they asked if he was carrying anything dangerous, and he indicated to his Bible, and said it was Dynamite!

I am not sure that people could get away with such statements in the present climate, but what we all felt at the time was how brilliant it was for someone to be so bold and open about their faith.

Of course there is a time and a place for boldness. I am sure you have been put off by those who try to ram their beliefs down your throat, or who make assumptions that everyone (apart from them) has got it wrong. There are those who do not respect the very firm faith of others. (I am always surprised when Jehovah's Witnesses call on my door. I politely ask them if the dog collar may be a clue to the fact that, actually I am working on my faith thanks!)

But then there is the opposite. Those who keep so quiet about their faith that nobody knows they have any. I remember working in a hospital, and one of the men working there was talking about his impending retirement. He said he will have more time for his church. The sister, who had known him and worked with him for twenty years, said "I never knew you went to church".

Twenty years, and not even a clue. I was saddened, and thought what huge missed opportunities.

So, how do we get the balance right? How do we discern when to bring up issues of faith, and when it is most appropriate to hold our tongue? I know I have been in many situations where questions about religion have caused arguments and tension. I have also found myself having to defend Christian concepts that I find difficult. Let me give you an example. I am very much in favour of Women's Ministry, and the ordination of women to the priesthood, and then (logically for me) to become bishops. Sometimes I am asked why some people oppose this. If I try and answer this, I find myself defending a pattern of belief that I do not agree with.

(Although I do respect that opinions different from mine can be equally valid). It is not always easy to know how and when to bring up issues, of faith, or church, or belief, so I have a simple rule, I don't think about it.

I don't mean 'I never think about bringing it up' I mean, I don't plan it, or organise it specifically, I just let it flow naturally as and when it comes. If a situation requires or suggests some religious input, then I open up and let it all out. I try not to be judgmental, but I do try to be heard.

Of course there are times when we create a definite opportunity for religious outreach, but here I am referring to just day to day living.

Knowing when to stop is as important as knowing when to start. Something I always find comforting is that God can create opportunities at any time. It is not the case that I have to expound the whole of Christian faith and histories in one go. Remember faith is a gift, and sometimes all we need do is give an opportunity for questions to be asked, and then it will blossom and grow.

As you are by now aware, we are concentrating on trying to build our church. There are as many ways to do that as there are members and opportunities to live it. It helps me to understand that I do not have to wait until I know all of the answers before I ever speak. Faith is a mystery, so there is always more to discover. God loves me and you, as we are, and there is no better time than now to be open about our faith.

With love and prayers,

Fr. Marcus

## ALL HALLOWS, WOOLBEDING

On Easter Day the sun shone as a greeting through the stained glass of the east window of Woolbeding Church and illuminated the chancel with coloured shafts of light, which produced clarity of outline and intensity to the multitude of spring flowers decorating the church.

There was an air of excitement as we had been welcomed by the pealing bells newly refurbished and sounding confidently from the high tower for the first time in living memory. A significant occasion for we had been summoned to a glorious Easter service.

One was reminded of the words of Christopher Price:

'Easter – a journey out of darkness.  
The new fire kindled in the blackness;  
Continents of light spreading outwards and upwards.  
The rising cadences of proclamation;  
The ancient stories of the listening vigil  
Spaced with the silences of the final waiting  
And then suddenly the dazzling sunburst:  
The trumpeted glory of the certain resurrection  
Golden and white, fully-flowered in light;  
The ascending notes of a carillon of bells;  
The high chorale of hymns of joy.  
In the far sanctuary, priest and people  
Celebrate again the paschal sacrifice  
In triumphant prelude to the splendours of the Easter  
dawning.'

Noel Simpson

## Diary

Every Tuesday - 9am - Morning Prayer

02 May - 9am                      Holy Communion

16 May - 9am                      Holy Communion

**16 May Rededication of the bells with the Bishop.**

**Evensong 5pm**

23 May - 6pm                      **Healing Service**

30 May - 9am                      Holy Communion

## CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

9 – 15 MAY

Service to be held in Catholic Church,

Bepton Road, Midhurst

On Sunday 9 May at 6pm

Speaker's report from Kenya

## **BIBLE READINGS FOR MAY**

### **9 May**

First Reading	Acts 16: 9 - 15
Second Reading	Revelation 21: 10, 22 - 22: 5
Gospel Reading	John 14: 23 - 29

### **16 May**

First Reading	Acts 16: 16 – 34
Second Reading	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
Gospel Reading	John 17: 20 - 26

### **23 May**

First Reading	Acts 2: 1 – 21
Second Reading	Romans 8: 14 - 17
Gospel Reading	John 14: 8 - 17, 25 - 27

### **30 May**

First Reading	Proverbs 8: 1 – 4, 22 - 31
Second Reading	Romans 5: 1 - 5
Gospel Reading	John 16: 12 - 15

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## **AN 'OPEN DOOR'--TO HELPING OUR YOUTH AND COMMUNITY:**

**The 'Open Door' programme for the youth of the Midhurst area started up again on Wednesday 21 April from 7 to 9pm at the Midhurst Methodist Church. If you enjoy kids and want to help on Wednesday evenings as part of our Leadership Team -- you are needed -- please call Angela Clarke at 810645.**

**If you want to help but don't feel you can serve on the Team, you may GIVE to help the programme happen -- for snacks and monthly rental at the Church -- by calling Angela Clarke.**

**Questions? Speak to Jonathan Moores at 817551 or Lloyd Auchard at 817375.**

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## **TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING**

Ken Ford has been Head teacher of Midhurst Primary School for 17 years and at the end of this Summer Term he will be leaving the school to enjoy a well earned retirement.

Ken came to the school as deputy head, from St James in Chichester, in January of 1989, he replaced Beryl Moores and taught a year 3 class for two terms. Those children are now either 30 or fast approaching 30! How quickly the years pass by. Ken moved to teach Year 5 in September 1989 where he remained for 4 years until he was appointed as Head teacher in 1993.

Ken took the school through its first experience of Ofsted even before he was appointed as Head teacher; he was Acting Head at the time, quite an ordeal, but one that he managed with confidence, guiding the school team through the four day inspection. Since then the school has had a further 3 Ofsteds all under Ken's leadership!

As a Year 5 teacher Ken was very popular in fact quite a legend! Probably his greatest claim to fame is the annual trip to Yorkshire that he initiated. Ken loved taking the Year 5 children to Yorkshire, they stayed in a hostel called Highfield House, which was right on the edge of Ilkley Moor. Ken was always accompanied by Mollie Newman, who was then the school bursar, who always affectionately referred to Ken as Fordie. We have numerous pictures of happy children all crowded together on the moor. It was quite an adventure to take children so far away from home but it became an annual event that children longed to participate in.

Ken has also fostered interests in cross country running, chess and cricket as well as encouraging the thriving school band. Many years ago he even aspired to be part of that band and could be heard practicing Summer Time on his saxophone in the male staff cloakroom!

As well as appointing many staff to develop new talent within the school, he has overseen many changes to the school building. The building of a new classroom and the creation of a class base in the redundant kitchen, the establishment of a fully equipped ICT suite, the extension of the staff room and office area, and very recently the refurbishment of the Early Years area to create two brand new classrooms equipped with the latest technology and a covered outdoor play area for the younger children. The success of these projects is an indication

that Ken has always had good working relationships with both the PTA and the School's Governing Body, both of whom supported these initiatives.

Ken Ford has led the school through many changes, National Curriculum, Numeracy & Literacy Hours, and relatively recently the change of the age of transfer and the threat of amalgamation to mention just a few. There are many tales to tell and many achievements to applaud, but the greatest achievement is the happy united band of people, both children and adults that he has created and moulded that make Midhurst Primary School such a good place to be. Ken will be sadly missed but long remembered by children, staff, governors and parents. We thank him for all that he has done and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Liz Willing Deputy Headteacher

MIDHURST PARISH CHURCH ROOM

Available for hire

Ideal for the one-off meeting, party or celebration

at £9.60 per hour

For regular users, clubs, societies, etc, £8.00 per hour

Prices include use of tables, chairs,

kitchen with crockery, toilets.

Bookings now taken by the Parish Office

on 01730 815356

# STAMPS

## STAMPS

### STAMPS

Received from the stamp Hon. Organiser:

*'Very many thanks for the lovely parcel of stamps, please thank your church members for their help.*

*We are in need of so many stamps, our many customers are keen to buy and our Society needs the money.*

*Please keep on helping The Childrens' Society*

*Thanks again, yours sincerely Evelyn Hair'*

Doubtless the increasing use of the Internet and E-mails is causing a marked reduction of foreign and Commonwealth stamps entering the country and they are the ones for which the Society is really looking. Please keep on clipping.

Alan Harrison

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### MIDHURST WI

At their March meeting, ladies of Midhurst WI were entertained by Roger Clark who spoke about cruising generally and illustrated his talk with pictures and cartoons of the facilities of Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth, including a pictorial record of the latter's final voyage.

Tony Turner spoke at the April meeting about a charity called EDUKID whose objects were to provide education and facilities for young people in Cambodia. This charity was the brainchild of a young man of his

acquaintance called Christopher who after leaving university, visited a student friend who was teaching in Cambodia. Christopher was so troubled at the poor conditions and lack of educational facilities that he returned home, sacrificed a promising career, and commenced fundraising to support EDUKID.

Flowers of the Month for March and April were awarded to Pat Quinnell, Ann Farley, Betty Parry, Myra Pollard and Audry Major.

Jean Pickett

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**FRIENDS OF MIDHURST COMMON**  
**SPRING WALK**  
**SATURDAY 8 MAY**

Meet at 10.30am outside the Half Moon Inn,  
on the corner of June Lane and Petersfield Road.

This will be circular walk, following the River Rother  
to Stedham Mill

Guided by Mike Edwards and Murray Marr

Approximate time 2hrs to 2½hrs.

**Please wear suitable footwear for country walking.**

See you there.

## MIDHURST MUSIC SOCIETY

As the final concert in this year's season, Midhurst Music Society will be presenting Mendelssohn's 'Elijah'. This concert will also be resurrecting the Rother Sinfonia, ably led by Jonathan Grover. This was the original orchestra, set up in 1976 by the Society's founder John Broadbent. The conductor will be the founder's son, Andrew. There will also be five professional soloists!

The concert will take place on Saturday 8 May in Easebourne Priory at 7pm. Tickets are available at the door, from members of the Society, or by contacting Pat Broadbent on 01730-812019.

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### **HELP IN YOUR HOME**

If you need help with:

**COOKING, CLEANING, DOG WALKING or ADMIN**

Contact VICKY on: [vickyshomehelp@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:vickyshomehelp@hotmail.co.uk) or on 07535147458

For a reliable good service

## **LODSWORTH FILM NIGHTS**

THURSDAY 20 MAY - "IT'S COMPLICATED"

Starring: MERYL STREEP, STEVE MARTIN & ALEC BALDWIN

Meryl Streep provides another excellent comic turn in 'It's Complicated'.  
A screwball comedy updated for lovers of a more mature vintage!  
"HILARIOUS" HONESTLY APPLIES TO THIS FILM.

As it is the last film until October we are repeating last year's very  
successful formula by serving a FISH N' CHIPS supper.

Doors/Bar/Supper at 7.30pm followed by the film at approx 8.30pm

Tickets £13.00 per person which must be paid for in ADVANCE.  
Available from the Lodsworth Larder – 01798 861947 – cheques  
acceptable payable to 'Lodsworth Village Hall'.

N.B. THERE WILL BE NO TICKETS ON THE DOOR.

\*If you would prefer 'Quiche' please say when you purchase your  
tickets.\*

Fingers crossed for a fine early summer evening!



# **GRAND AUCTION**

**SATURDAY 12 JUNE**

**FERNHURST VILLAGE HALL**

**Glebe Road, Fernhurst, GU27 3EH**

**Viewing 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Auction from 2 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.**

Come in good time to browse around,  
have some lunch or other refreshments  
and get your bidder's registration form filled in !

The lots and promises will offer something for everyone.  
How about a signed England football shirt or a ride in a  
vintage Bentley with afternoon tea included?

Don't miss the chance to bargain hunt.

Come along on 12 June when the expert gavel of Mr. John Nicholson, our  
local auctioneer, will be marking your bids.

All proceeds to the Fernhurst Parish & Community Room  
building fund. Further information from  
Roy Woodward, 01428 652175, Mary Oddi, 01428 653517

## **WILDLIFE ON THE BRINK**

Sometime in the 1980s the last St Ivel's sea anemone died, the last one in the whole world that it is; it became globally extinct and it happened right here on our doorstep, in Sussex.

Now, I am the first to admit that as individuals, this extinction has not impacted on our lives in any way, and it is true that a just a tiny handful of people knew of its existence in the first place. But there are implications of its extinction, which are highlighted in a report recently published by Natural England called 'Lost Life: England's lost and threatened species'.

This report by Natural England, the Government's advisors on the natural environment, highlights the species that have been lost from England - nearly 500 in the recent past. The greater majority of these have been in the last 200 years, and it is the loss of the St Ivel's anemone that sets the tone of the document.

It is the first time that this loss has been comprehensively correlated and documented and while one extinction may or may not be considered important, the loss of such a number on a national scale should engender much greater concern; if life for other life forms is going downhill then life for us is going the same way.

A majority of the species are those which people will not have encountered or heard of, covering as they do mosses, lichens or liverworts, or insects and flies, all of which are known to just a few experts and enthusiasts so their demise goes unnoticed. The extinction of a high profile species - a big mammal, bird or well-known flower - will

cause much more widespread concern.

One of my first jobs on arriving at Woods Mill all of 25 years ago was to do something with an inherited nest and egg collection, mainly taken from around Henfield, including two nests and clutches of red-backed shrikes' eggs dated 1905. The last pair of this species to nest in England was in the late 1980s and its extinction as a common English breeding bird has taken less than a century.

Recent losses in England include the great yellow bumblebee, the chequered skipper butterfly and the mouse-eared bat, the last one being recorded in Brighton in the early 1990s. The reasons for these extinctions are many and varied, but undoubtedly the biggest causes relate to changes in management of the landscape and loss of habitat. Some species have simply been wiped out by man, hunted to death, or persecuted as vermin, while changes in climate will have an increasing impact into the future.

Without in any way minimalising the importance and downright depressive nature of this report there are some wins in terms of wildlife, either through nature conservation measures, a much more sympathetic approach to wildlife and in some cases, re-introductions of once native species. This does provide a small counterbalance to the rather doom-laden content of this report.

Locally, some rare species such as adonis blue, water vole, nightjar and even the otter are fighting back and their numbers increasing through conservation measures backed up by greater knowledge of habitat requirements and sympathetic landowners. In the case of the red kite a re-introduction scheme has had the same effect.

However, this does not let us off the hook. Loss is still greater than gain, with much of that gain being at considerable expense and until we revert the balance then our link to this planet is on the same level as all the other species, and that is tenuous.

by Mike Russell, Head of People and Wildlife at Sussex Wildlife Trust

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## WHO DOES WHAT

A man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, "You should do it, because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee."

The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee."

Wife replies, "No, you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee."

Husband replies, "I can't believe that, show me."

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says....."HEBREWS"

## **MIDHURST & WOOLBEDING CALENDAR – MAY**

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday ***Philip & James, Apostles***

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Easter 5

**Woolbeding** 9.00am Holy Communion

**Midhurst** 9.30am Sunday Morning Live!

10.15am Coffee

10.45am Holy Communion (shortened)

6.00pm Evensong

Beginning of 24/7 Prayer Week

4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 3.30pm 'Solid Rock' Club –

5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10.00am Mothers and Others

10.15am Holy Communion

6<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7.30pm Mothers' Union: Meeting at  
19, Goodwood Close

8.00pm Housegroup at  
14, Park Crescent

8<sup>th</sup> Saturday Mothers' Union: AGM and  
Council meeting at Burgess Hill

12noon Wedding

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter

**Midhurst** 9.00am Holy Communion

10.30am Parish Communion

- Social Committee meeting after Church
- Woolbeding** 6.00pm Healing service
- 10<sup>th</sup> Monday 8.00pm Life and Faith Group at  
46, Guillard's Oak
- 11<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 3.30pm 'Solid Rock' Club – MGS  
8.00pm OASIS Worship – Costers Farm  
theme: Nehemiah, faith under  
pressure
- 12<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10.00am Mothers and Others  
10.15am Holy Communion
- 13<sup>th</sup> Thursday 7.30pm Ascension Day Service
- 14<sup>th</sup> Friday ***Matthias, Apostle***
- 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday Easter 7  
**Woolbeding** 9.00am Holy Communion  
**Midhurst** 10.30am Parish Communion  
**Woolbeding** 5.00pm Evensong and dedication of Bells
- 18<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 3.30pm 'Solid Rock' Club – Midhurst PS
- 19<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 10.00am Mothers and Others  
10.15am Holy Communion  
7.30pm PCC
- 20<sup>th</sup> Thursday 8.00pm Housegroup at  
14, Park Crescent
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday **Pentecost**  
**Midhurst** 9.00am Holy Communion

- 10.30am Parish Communion
- 25<sup>th</sup> Tuesday      3.30pm 'Solid Rock' Club – MPS  
                          7.30pm Julian Group – 52, Heathfield Pk.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Wednesday    10.00am Mothers and Others  
                          10.15am Holy Communion  
                          2.30pm Mothers' Union: Afternoon Tea  
    for Mums and Toddlers
- 27<sup>th</sup> Thursday      7.30pm Bell ringing practise
- 29<sup>th</sup> Saturday      12.30pm Wedding
- 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday      **Trinity Sunday**  
                          **Woolbeding**    9.00am Holy Communion  
                          **Midhurst**        10.30am Parish Communion
- 31<sup>st</sup> Monday      ***Visit of Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth***

## **JUNE**

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday    10.15am Holy Communion
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday      **Corpus Christi**
- 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday
- 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday      Trinity 1  
                          **Woolbeding**    9.00am Holy Communion  
                          **Midhurst**        9.30am Sunday Morning Live!  
    10.15am Coffee  
    10.45am Holy Communion (shortened)  
    6.00pm Evensong

## **From the Records**

### **The Departed**

Leslie Albert Kinsman	19 <sup>th</sup> February	Age 84
Wilhelmenia Parfitt	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Age 59
Dorothy Margaret Reeby	8 <sup>th</sup> March	Age 78

*Sharing Prayers throughout the month of May ...*

*Suggestions you may wish to include in your personal prayers during the coming month*

*O God, you are with us in our fear*

*You sustain us in our times of uncertainty*

*You shine your light upon us*

### ***Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> - Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May***

*RVCT Week of Prayer [2<sup>nd</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>] St. Anne's Hall, Midhurst, the theme will be based on three Bible Verses, one of which is "Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest"; let us take time to pray with others in the Rother Valley throughout this week. We also remember Philip and James, Apostles [1<sup>st</sup>] Julian of Norwich [8<sup>th</sup>]*

*We pray for those in our parishes who live in Guillards Oak; Heatherwood; Heathfield Close; Heathfield Gardens; Heathfield Gate; Heathfield Green; and Heathfield Park.*

*In our Diocese we are asked to pray for the Incumbent and*

*parishioners who live in the parishes of Westbourne; Funtington with Sennicotts; West Stoke; East Dean; Singleton and West Dean; for Lisa Williamson (Assistant Communications Officer at Church House).*

*Worldwide let us pray for The Anglican Church of Korea and those who live in the Cape Coast West Africa.*

*Embrace us with joy*

*Help us to follow that light in all ways*

*At all times*

*Throughout our lives*

*In Your name we pray*

*Amen*

*Sunday 9th - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May*

*We remember Ascension Day [13<sup>th</sup>] St Matthias [14<sup>th</sup>]. We continue to pray for the housebound, the sick and the lonely ~ with the help of the Holy Spirit let humility become part of our lives in all our dealings.*

*We pray for those in our parishes who live in Holmbush Way; June Lane; June Meadows; Knockhundred Road; Lamberts Lane; Meadway and Cobden House.*

*In our Diocese we are asked to pray for the Incumbents and parishioners who live in the parishes of Southbourne with West*

*Thorney; Ashburnham with Penhurst; Battle; and Bexhill*

*World wide let us pray for the peoples of Colombo Ceylon.*

*Living God*

*We long for your presence*

*As for water in a dry and thirsty land*

*Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May*

*Dedication of the new Bells at Woolbeding Church at 5.00 p.m. [16<sup>th</sup>]. May the tradition of ringing bells remind us all that both our churches are signalling a welcome to share our faith with each other; we give thanks for the commitment of all our bell ringers. Midhurst PCC [19<sup>th</sup>] let us pray for all our members in their decision making.*

*We pray for those in our parishes who live in New Road; North Street; Oakhurst; Oakwood Close; Orchard Way and Park Crescent.*

*In our Diocese we are asked to pray for the Incumbent and parishioners in the parishes of Bexhill; Catsfield and Crowhurst.*

*Worldwide we pray for all the peoples of Tanzania.*

*Come to us in our hour of need*

*Break into our parched lives*

*Inundate our hearts with fresh streams*

*Of living water*

*Sunday 23rd - Monday 31st May*

*Pentecost Sunday [23rd] John and Charles Wesley 1791 and 1788 [24<sup>th</sup>] St Augustine of Canterbury [26<sup>th</sup>] Trinity Sunday [30<sup>th</sup>] The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth [31<sup>st</sup>]. The words in italics are taken from "Lifting Women's Voices" so let us pray particularly throughout this week for the Mothers and Others meeting; the Mother's Union tea for Mums and Toddlers and the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Elizabeth. Let us give thanks too for the dedication of the 'flower ladies' who make our churches so beautiful each week.*

*We pray for those in our parishes who live in Petersfield Road; Pitsham Wood; Poplar Way; Pretoria Avenue; Rumbolds Hill and St. Anne's Hill.*

*In our Diocese we are asked to pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury; among others this month we are asked to remember the Incumbents and parishioners of the parishes of Sedlescombe with Whatlington; Brightling and Burwash.*

*Worldwide let us pray for the peoples of Chandigarh North India.*

*Let us drink deeply and never be thirsty*

*Except to know YOU fully as we are known*

*In Jesus Christ the living spring*

*Amen*