

JULY LETTER FROM FATHER MARCUS

My Dear Friends,

Over the weekend of 24th and 25th July we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival. The events will include our Summer Fayre on the Saturday, with the brilliant mixture of food, stalls and live music, and then on the Sunday morning we will have our worship outside. A great public witness and proclamation of our love of God.

I would like to suggest two things, the first invitational; the second incarnational!

The first: We know this is going to be a good event. We will put a great deal of time and energy into this and will make sure the whole Festival is worth coming to. It is definitely one of those occasions where it is easy to invite our friends along, so they get a taste of what life at our church is like. We know we can do this well, and it is through events like this that we begin to build new relationships and people who meet us realise that, although we go to church, we are normal lovely human beings who enjoy the truly good things of life. It is a great opportunity and we can encourage one another in our outreach endeavours.

The second: Incarnational. If we are thinking or expecting people to come to us, it is also right that we should feel comfortable to go to them. If the church is to reflect the love of God, it must do that, not only in its worship, but also in its service. It is our privilege and joy to be part of,

and engage fully with the wonderful things that happen in our beautiful town. As I go about this place, I constantly bump into church people who are putting their faith into practice. They are reading with children at the school, or helping with the various youth clubs or Mothers and Others. They are looking after and visiting the poorly, they are helping out in charity shops, getting involved in community events like MADHURST, they are volunteering at the ruins, driving the community bus, helping out at the Grange..... the list could go on.

This is important. That we realise we are living out our faith both inside and outside the church. This is a beautiful witness. Of course people do not need to be church goers to volunteer or help out, but the more we explore our local society, the more we realise how much we as a faith community actually offer. It is when we understand this that we can feel even more secure, when we ask people to Come and See.

In addition to this is the sense that the Patronal Festival is more than an excuse for a party, more than just a great date in the calendar, but an inspiring, uplifting, challenging and thought provoking opportunity to look deeply at who we are, what we believe, what we do and why we do it. I am looking forward to meeting new friends already.

I am writing this a few days before our Gift Day, but in faith and anticipation I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us.

Bless you all

Father Marcus

ALL HALLOWS, WOOLBEDING

Some of us who are learning to ring the renovated bells at Woolbeding are somewhat confused by the number of variations possible with only three bells. However, melodious patterns are emerging and we are agreed that it is inspiring to hear the bells as we walk to church.

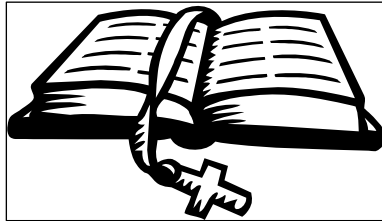
On Trinity Sunday - a beautiful sunlit morning - there was not only the sound of the bells but also the visual delight of the 'Fairy Foxgloves' in full bloom. The churchyard walls were adorned with the small pink flowers clustered together in spectacular displays. *Erinus alpinus* is extremely rare and no-one knows how the flower, which is normally found in the mountains of Europe, came to Woolbeding. It might have been brought by the Romans because it is also found on Hadrian's Wall.

The poet Francis William Bourdillon, who lived in the Glebe (his father was Rector) and is buried in Woolbeding churchyard, must have known these flowers. In his poems '*Among the flowers*' he speaks of his home in Woolbeding:

*I bring again my gifts to thee,
O home I held so dear!
Of all thy thousand gifts to me
The thin first fruits are here
For, nestling in thy woodlands warm*

BIBLE READINGS FOR JULY

Sunday 4 July – Sunday Morning Live!



Sunday 11 July

Old Testament Reading

Amos 7: 7 - 11

New Testament Reading

Colossians 1: 1 - 14

Gospel Reading

Luke 10: 25 - 37

Sunday 18 July

Old Testament Reading

Amos 8: 1 - 12

New Testament Reading

Colossians 1: 15 - 28

Gospel Reading

Luke 10: 38 - 42

Sunday 25 July

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 45: 1 - 5

New Testament Reading

Acts 11: 27 – 12: 2

Gospel Reading

Matthew 20: 20 - 28

MIDHURST DEANERY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 2011

A pilgrimage for the Midhurst Deanery to the Shrine at Walsingham has been booked for next year. The dates are Monday 6 June to Friday 10 June 2011.

Places are limited and early booking is essential. A £10 deposit is required at the time of booking.

For further details please contact Sue Haines on 816526 or email: gjhaines40@aol.com

OUT AND ABOUT IN THE SUMMER TERM

The Summer Term at Midhurst C of E Primary School is always one of the busiest terms, but one of the most enjoyable. The school summer fair was at the end of the first week back after half term. Year 6 pupils ran stalls of their own to entertain and challenge parents, children and friends of the school. Midhurst Musical Mayhem played brilliantly, the fencing club amazed the crowds with their skills and children from Years 4 and 5 danced around the maypole to the delight of all who watched. Next

week will be our annual Sport's Day, where every child participates and competes to gain the most number of points for their team.

Four classes have already been out on a trip to learn more in a different setting. Year 1 travelled to Durleigh Marsh to learn how all the fruit and vegetables are grown. Alison Grange, the farmer's wife, gave the children a guided tour and explained how plants grow both above and below the ground. They learnt about different vegetables and herbs and were given the opportunity to taste some for the first time. The best part for all the children was going over the 'troll bridge' to pick strawberries and of course to taste them!

Year 3 visited Woolbeding, both the River Rother and the Common; this is the first time that the school has liaised with the National Trust and it was a really beneficial and enjoyable experience, The children were transported by tractor and trailer, provided by the National Trust. By the river they saw the ancient oak tree as well as a rare breed of dragonfly. On the common they were fascinated by the cows and pigs that were grazing there. They all felt that it was a wonderful place to spend a beautiful afternoon in June.

Year 4 visited Milestones Museum in Basingstoke and had a fantastic day wandering amongst the Victorian shops, looking at how different they were from shops today. After going through the time tunnel they could contrast these with the shops in the 1930s. They were also able to see vehicles from the past, both steam trains and vintage cars. There was so much to see and so much to learn, it was quite an experience.

Year 2 had a great afternoon in school learning about healthy eating. A team of people from BUPA (Pendean) set up four activities: making smoothies, finding out where different fruits come from, top trumps using snack cards and identifying whether food mentioned in a story was healthy or unhealthy. A lot of learning went on that afternoon and each child was given a pedometer to count the number of steps they do in a day - the implications of this will now be explored as far as keeping healthy.

What a lot happens in just two weeks, new exciting opportunities to enable children to gain new knowledge and learn new skills!

Liz Willing

Deputy Headteacher

JOHN BROADBENT'S MEMORIAL CONCERTS

The second concert of this series will be given by St. Mary's organist, Mary Knight, on Saturday 10 July at 3pm in the church. Mary's programme of British music will include works by Dowland, Byrd and Stanford. This interesting programme will be followed by cream teas, served in the Priory garden.

Looking forward to Sunday 8 August, John's son, Andrew, will give a recital of works by Purcell, Handel, Ireland, Sullivan and others. There will be a retiring collection in aid of the Bursary fund.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Please can everyone who has a collecting box bring it to church on Sunday 25 July, or to my address at 8 Spring Meadows, New Road, so that I can begin the annual count. Many thanks.

Margaret Tricker

Tel: (01730) 810752



MIDHURST PARISH CHURCH
ANNUAL PASTORAL SUMMER FESTIVAL
SATURDAY 24 JULY

Opening at 2pm with a peel of bells

There will be stalls, games, refreshments
and music all the way until late evening

If you are able to donate any items, please see the list of stall
holders on the Social Committee notice board in church.

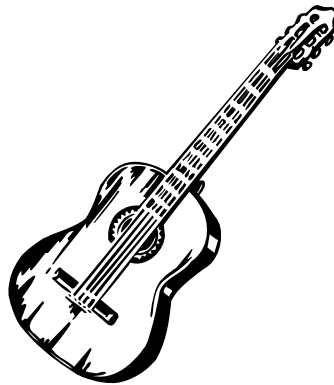
CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

The house to house collection for Midhurst and Cocking totalled
£2,352.57. Grateful thanks to all collectors.

Doreen Cleaver

RICHARD DURRANT – CLASSICAL GUITARIST
CONCERT – MIDHURST PARISH CHURCH
THURSDAY 26 AUGUST

7.30pm



Tickets £12 adults and £10 concessions

Now available from Stepping Out, North Street, Midhurst

Or by phoning Joy on (01730) 812807

Tickets are also available in church after the Sunday service
(The concert is in conjunction with the MADHURST Festival)

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2010 – SPACE HOP

This year's Summer Reading Challenge takes children on a cosmic journey through books and stories. The story follows three children as they attempt to set up the first lunar library on the moon.

As before children will be challenged to read up to six books from their local library. They will collect different rewards at each stage, culminating in a certificate and medal for those that complete the Challenge.

Key Points:

Children can register for Space Hop in any library in West Sussex from **Saturday 17 July**

The scheme runs throughout the summer holidays with the final date for completion **Saturday 11th September**

The scheme is aimed at **4-12 year-olds** and is **FREE** to join

After reading their first books children will receive a hologram membership card and pull-out poster to collect their stickers

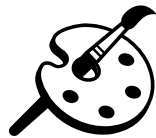
There are three sets of 'scratch & sniff' stickers to collect, plus a bookmark, certificate and medal

Younger children under-four can join in the fun by taking part in the **Space Hop Bookstart Bookcrawl** to earn a special alien-themed certificate

There will also be a variety of fun, space-themed events taking place in libraries – check the website for details

To help run the Challenge libraries need the help of young people to volunteer in their local library. Young people will be asked to help register children, handout stickers and other rewards and also encourage the children to read more and complete the Challenge. To find out more visit your local library or check the website.

MIDHURST ART SOCIETY



**ANNUAL
ART EXHIBITION**

IN THE MEMORIAL HALL, NORTH STREET

5TH TO 12TH AUGUST

10am to 6pm EXCEPT LAST DAY WHICH FINISHES AT 4pm

**Nearly 300 framed paintings will be on show in many different mediums
as well as a large number of portfolio works.**

**Entry is free so this is an opportunity to see the work of local artists
both amateur and professional.**

**This annual exhibition (the 38th) is noted for its very high
standard.**



LORD OF THE SKIES

If you want to marvel at how incredible wildlife can be you only have to look at the swift. This wonderful bird epitomises how creatures adapt to the world they live in and exploits any advantage they can that provide opportunities for them to survive in a competitive, crowded and increasingly hostile environment.

Most of you have seen a swift even if you are not aware that you have. Their screeching calls as they scythe through the towns and villages of Sussex is one of the sounds of summer; as much part of our aural landscape as is the gentle knock of leather against willow, the buzzing of bees, the whine of electric lawnmowers and the sizzling of burnt sausages on the barbecue.

If you are not sure what they look like, turn your gaze upwards on a warm summer evening and you may well see what resembles a small flying anchor darting round the rooftops at great speed. Essentially they are all wing; the wingspan reaches 40cms (16ins) which is over twice the length of the body. They are essentially designed for life in the air and this leads to the first remarkable fact about swifts.



Once they leave the nest a swift spends the next three years of its life in the air, never landing anywhere. In this time it migrates back and forth to Africa no less than six times; it eats, rests and eventually in its fourth year, mates on the wing. If they could devise a way of building a nest and raising young on the wing they would have done so by now. Swifts have evolved to a degree that their legs are now unnecessary and to all intents and purposes useless; if they fall to the ground they have no muscle power at all so are not able to push up to launch themselves into the air and would undoubtedly perish.



Having to breed and raise young means finding a surface on which to lay eggs at a height that, when the young are ready to leave the nest they are high enough up to launch straight into an up current. Two eggs are usually laid on a flat piece of wood or concrete under eaves or even tiles where there is a small enough gap for these ultra slim birds to squeeze into. That's why church towers and older, tall buildings with plenty of gaps are ideal for these originally cliff nesting birds, while today's buildings are far less suitable being that we are now concerned more with clean designs and no gaps to let wildlife in.

Another remarkable fact is that when swifts want to go to sleep, they go higher and higher in the air until they become invisible to the naked eye. They then cruise around at high altitude taking short 'cat naps' until it is warm enough to start feeding again. Feeding is all done in the air with the birds collecting up to 400 insects in one ball as they are able to extend their gape like a net, catching their prey at great speed. Another fascinating fact is that they are quite capable of travelling hundreds of miles in a day to find food should the weather be cold in their breeding grounds, and it is quite feasible that Sussex based swifts will fly to central France and back in a day should they need to.

Swifts are one of the last of our migrant bird species to arrive back in the UK from Africa and we usually don't see them until the beginning of May. Their time here is pretty short - just enough to raise a brood - so that by mid-August they have nearly all embarked on their journey back south.

Sadly swift numbers are declining in the south east of England, mainly due to a fall in the number of insects and a loss of breeding sites. Around Sussex, concerned swift lovers have put up specially designed nest boxes for them with some degree of success and it is hoped that this will help reverse the fall in numbers of this enigmatic and wonderful Lord of the Skies.



Mike Russell
Sussex Wildlife Trust

www.sussexwt.org.uk