



Under the Downs

3 Country Churches Nestling Under the Downs

View From the Rectory

On several occasions during the past few weeks the news has been dominated by horrific natural disasters and acts of violence, which have brought devastation to many many people.

It was good to see on the news a British ship arriving to help bring some order out of the recent chaos in the Caribbean. The ship concerned was part of the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, the RFA. It has been said the letters also stand for 'Ready for Anything'!

We also have to be 'ready for anything' don't we? Changes in the weather which means that plans have to be altered suddenly. Sudden crises in health. Unexpected visitors. A new baby expected. Promotion at work. A flat tyre when on the way to an important appointment. The book of Proverbs tells us - "Never boast about tomorrow. You don't know what will happen between now and then" . But

Jesus also tells us to take one day at a time - we need to be like the birds of the air, or the lilies of the field - worrying does not help us, and we need to remember that we are always held in God's hands.

What a comfort it is to know that He is with us at all times – the One who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He has promised to be with us always, even to the end of time, as we trust Him day by day.

So let's remember this in the coming weeks as autumn and winter approach, as the nights grow darker and colder, and as we plan for Christmas, and look forward into the New Year. May the light of His presence brighten our lives everyday – whatever that day might hold!

Every blessing

Linda



Another 'Almost Advent' Away Day

Tuesday 28th November at Dunford House, West Lavington 10 am - 3 pm

A quiet day? A study day? Time to spend with others? Yes to all of these.

We will have an Advent theme, looking towards the coming of God's Kingdom - it's a time of getting ready, and not just for Christmas, which will inevitably be much in our minds by then. You can share in discussion with others, or take the resources or a helpful book away to your own space. Use the day as suits you best.

Tea and coffee and a sandwich lunch will be provided, so there will be a small charge of £10.

There is plenty of car parking at the house, and we will arrange lifts where needed.

Please let Glynis Mancini (glynismmancini@gmail.com) know if you will be coming, and whether you need a lift, by **Tuesday 21st November** at the latest.

November 2017

Remembrance Sunday

On Sunday 12th November , we remember those who have died in two world wars, and in conflicts since, with a joint service at **St Mary Bepton** at 10.45am.

Wreaths from each of our parishes will be laid at the war memorial in Bepton Churchyard as part of the Benefice Service of Remembrance. The wreaths for Heyshott and Cocking will be returned to the war memorials in these villages later in the day.

There will also be a short said service of Holy Communion at 9 am at St Catherine's, Cocking.

Remembrance



My grandfather fought at The Somme but died when I was a little boy. My late mother was only thirteen when the Second World War ended. I have no memory whatever of those wars that our annual Remembrance Sunday first commemorated. There is, however, no sign of these commemorations disappearing with the generations who lived through the great wars of the twentieth century. What, though, do we mean today, by 'remember'? Literature, photography and film-making preserve our awareness of the sacrifices made during the world wars. Subsequent conflicts continue to take the lives of those serving in the armed forces. We remember what we have learned about the horrors of past wars and we remember those who, today, put their lives on the line, often in the cause of peace in distant countries. We remember and honour servicemen and women who lay aside their personal safety for the sake of others. Images of the Christian Soldier are less popular than once they were, but it is worth remembering that a soldier fights for king and kingdom, never for self but always for the rights and wellbeing of those who cannot fight for themselves. Ought we not all to be soldiers of Christ and of his advancing Kingdom?

+Mark Horsham





THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Tuesday & Wednesday
7th & 8th November
9am-4pm

Our annual event will be held as usual at **The Tithe Barn, Ditcham, Petersfield, GU31 5RQ** £4 entry includes coffee with lemon cake

The Midhurst Society

Do join us on Thursday 16 November at 7pm at the South Downs Memorial Hall, North Street (opposite the Car Park) for our last talk for 2017. We will be having a Gardeners Question Time format when David Burton of Rotherhill Nurseries will be answering questions and giving us tips for winter gardening. All are welcome: entry charge for members is £3, £5 for visitors and £1 for students payable at the door.

Christmas is coming!

The Heyshott Christmas Bazaar is on Saturday 18 November, 2-4pm in the Cobden Hall. As usual lots of Christmas goodies will be available, with refreshments and of course a raffle! Please come along even if you can only manage a short while.

Looking ahead to December

December 3rd is Advent Sunday - there will be an Advent Carol Service at 3 pm in St Catherine's Cocking. A candle-lit service which foretells the coming of Jesus, with all the familiar Advent hymns.

Church Service Times

This is the usual pattern, but occasionally there are changes - please check the church noticeboards. This is especially important at festival times such as Christmas and Easter

St Mary Bepton

11.15am 1st Sunday of the month Matins BCP
2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays Matins with Holy Communion BCP

St Catherine of Siena Cocking

9.30am Every Sunday
1st Sunday of the month Family Communion CW
2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays Holy Communion CW

St James Heyshott

11.15am 1st Sunday of the month Family Communion CW
9.30am 2nd Sunday of the month Holy Communion BCP
9.30am 3rd Sunday of the month Matins BCP
11.15am 4th Sunday of the month Holy Communion CW
6.00pm 1st 2nd and 4th Sundays Evensong BCP
3rd Sunday Compline

On a 5th Sunday of the month, there is a joint service at 10.00 am at one of our churches - please check the notice boards or our magazine.
CW - Common Worship is the modern language service
BCP - Book of Common Prayer is the traditional service

Red Alert: Incoming Transmission

Tseep. For centuries we have looked to the stars above hoping for a sign. And each November we get one. Tseep. Stand anywhere in our county on a clear November night and listen. Tseep. There it is again; a thin, sibilant whistle. Somewhere, up there between Sussex and the moon, something is happening. Tseep. As the Earth slowly turns and the seasons change that noise is the sound of our big, old planet on the move. It's the sound of the redwing.

Redwing are small thrushes, like a pale, streaky-breasted blackbird. Their name comes from the flash of red on the underwing, revealed by the birds in flight.

The scale of the annual redwing invasion is massive - 40,000 redwing were observed passing Beachy Head ahead of an advancing storm on Feb 16th 1969; a blizzard of snow flakes and blazing armpits.

They mostly migrate under cover of the night. That tseep is their contact call; a single note of reassurance for their fellow travellers.

Redwing breed across a wide northerly stretch of our planet running from Iceland to the Kolyma Basin in eastern Siberia. In March and April they'll leave Sussex and chase the retreating winter back to their defrosting fiords. Tseep. A gentle reminder that, whatever your own problems You're just a tiny part of something much bigger; a planet on the move.

