



# Under the Downs

3 Country Churches Nestling Under the Downs

## View From the Rectory

Have you ever noticed how those tasks which you think would be really easy to complete end up either taking a very long time or revealing unlooked for challenges, whilst those that you tend to put off until almost the last moment because they seem daunting, or lengthy, or both, turn out to be both easier and/or shorter than expected?

So what might the reasons be? Well, we might not have all the information, or be fully aware of all the factors affecting what we want to do. Equally we might not know what skills and knowledge we already have, or what we are lacking.

In spite of increased technology and knowledge, it remains impossible to forecast accurately what the weather will be like - it can be sunny in Heyshott, raining in Bepton, and unable to make up its mind in Cocking for example.

We never know what joys or sorrows will be round the corner in our lives either, but what is certain is that God is unchanging and is always there, walking beside us.

We don't know everything there is to know about Him either, and will not fully understand until we get to heaven. We might not understand his actions, or his apparent lack of intervention, especially when we look around at different places in our world and see pain and injustice, but there is plenty of beauty in the world, in our landscape and in the loving-kindness of others.

At harvest time particularly, we focus on that beauty, and all that the land provides, remembering that harvest comes in many forms, not least that we are God's own harvest.

*Linda*

## It's (still) Harvest Time!

We celebrate Harvest Festivals in each of our churches - still to come:

**Cocking:** Harvest Festival at 9.30 am on **7th October**, followed by Harvest lunch in the Village Hall at 12.30 pm. Please let Naomi Dekker know if you will be attending. [ndekker@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ndekker@hotmail.co.uk)

**Bepton:** Harvest Festival at 11.15 am on **14th October**.

Gifts of both perishable and non-perishable food items from all festival events will be donated to local charities.

**Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the fete. For putting up marquees, making teas and cakes, running stalls, selling raffle tickets and clearing up at the end! A good day was had by all.**

## October 2018

### Autumn Concert at Bepton

On Saturday 27

October at 3pm we

will be entertained

by the Songsmiths,

a long established

four part choir

directed and

accompanied by organist Malcolm

Brinson. For many years the Songsmiths

have sung in a variety of venues to raise money for churches and other charities.

Malcolm has been director of music at various churches in West Sussex before

and after an extended period at three churches in Cyprus. Currently he plays

the organ at Midhurst Parish Church

amongst other churches. Do plan to

come to hear a varied programme of

music. Tickets cost £10 (children 7 to 16 free) and will be available from Sheila

Ryan tel: 01730 813971 email:

[bayleaves@macace.net](mailto:bayleaves@macace.net)



*and more to come - another musical date for your diaries*

**Saturday 17th November 6pm for 6:30pm in St James Church, Heyshott**

**An organ recital by Dr David Price ,**

Organist and Master of the Choristers of

Portsmouth Cathedral. For full details and

tickets £12.50 each (to include a drink on

arrival). Apply; The Unicorn Inn,

Heyshott [info@unicorn-inn-](mailto:info@unicorn-inn-heyshott.co.uk)

[heyshott.co.uk](http://heyshott.co.uk) 01730 813846

Monday 8 October 2018

Lyrical La Mortella, Ischia

Rosemary Legrand, a horticulturist and former Nursery owner comes from a horticultural family. She has a love of photography and has travelled extensively.

Her talk visits the beautiful Island of Ischia and the idyllic Gardens of the late Sir William and Lady Susana Walton at "La Mortella".

Visitors always very welcome

For more information about the Club please contact Denise Skinner 01730 814194, [askinner3@sky.com](mailto:askinner3@sky.com) or check our website - [midhurstgardenclub.co.uk](http://midhurstgardenclub.co.uk)

### Thank you.....

Harvest festivals mark a time in the year when all our churches look particularly beautiful. That is due in no small part to the activity of our splendid flower arrangers, in each of our churches, who ensure, quietly, week by week, that altar flowers help to make the church a beautiful place to worship, and give glory to God. On special occasions the 'regulars' may be joined by others. Flower arranging is undoubtedly a gift, which many of us do not have, so a big thank you to those of you who do, and who take those opportunities to share it with us. If you would like to join our flower arranging team, please let us know.



## Ivy: the kebab shop of plants

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

In the Autumn many parishes celebrate the year's yield with Harvest Festivals, a tradition which dates back to pagan times. But for our insects, nourishment is now in short supply. The beautiful flowers which have filled our countryside and gardens with colour and which have provided our insects with nectar will have shut up shop for another year. But there is one plant that will just be revealing its flowers in October; opening for business long after the others have closed their doors. Your nearest Ivy will now be coming into bloom; look for its flowers - bobbly explosions of pale green.

In some ways Ivy is the kebab shop of plants; it offers welcome nourishment for those insects that like staying out late in the year. And, like a kebab shop, you're going to find a right old mix of characters queueing up for that one last meal before they go to sleep for the winter. Beautiful butterflies dine alongside wasps; bumblebees jostle with hoverflies and our Ivy bushes literally buzz with life. The importance of Ivy to the wildlife of our towns cannot be understated. Aside from this vital late season nectar supply, Ivy's evergreen leaves also feed caterpillars – including those of the Holly Blue butterfly and the delicate Swallow-tailed Moth. These leathery leaves provide a hibernating site for brimstone and peacock butterflies. On cold winter evenings the Ivy sings with the chatter and chirp of an invisible sparrow choir roosting in the waterproof warmth. Its black berries keep our winter thrushes filled, and in the spring it is a nesting site for our robins and wrens. Ivy covers a blank brick wall with a piece of living graffiti. It's a nature reserve that has spread itself across our towns and villages.

But despite all the life it supports, Ivy has a reputation as a killer and its roots are accused of sucking the life from the trees it surrounds. This isn't true; Ivy manufactures its own nourishment just like any other honest plant. So let's not give ivy a bad press, but remember that, like so many unassuming plants, it is a secret supporter for much more of our wildlife than we generally realise.

## 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

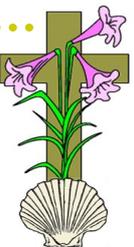
11.15am 1st Sunday of the month Matins BCP  
2nd, 3rd and 4th Sundays Matins with Holy Communion BCP

### 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