



Under the Downs

3 Country Churches Nestling Under the Downs

View From the Rectory

For years now, I've done various kinds of embroidery, as a relaxation from work, church and other commitments. Some projects are made into cushions, some framed as pictures, some given as gifts, but in all cases, only the front is seen. The aim is to make the side that people see, the finished picture, as perfect as possible. Turn the work over though, and all the joining and finishing off of threads can be seen - there are glimpses of the finished picture, but sometimes the detail can be hard to make out. However, the more careful I am, the more like the finished picture the underside becomes.

I like to think this is a bit like life - the finished picture is the perfect (or near perfect) view. This is how God sees us, how he would like us to be, and a clue to the eventual heavenly outcome. The reality is the underside, our every day life. It's where all the working out, the linking of thoughts, prayers and actions, takes place.

We can be careless with how we work at that, in which case it will be hard to discern what the finished picture might be like, or we can take great care, think about what we do, and try hard to imagine that finished picture as we work, so that we gradually become closer to the ideal, closer to being the way God wants us to be.

The embroidery follows a pattern, and that is also reflected in our Christian life.

God has set the pattern for us in his Son, it is down to us to follow that pattern, and work it out, as neatly and as near-perfectly as we can, in our daily lives.

Every Blessing

Linda



It's Harvest Time!

We will be celebrating with Harvest Festivals in each of our churches:

Heyshott: Choral Evensong at 6pm on **30th September**, followed by Harvest Supper in the Cobden Hall. Please let Nick Sherwin know if you will be attending

nick.sherwin@me.com Please note there will be no morning service at Heyshott on this day.

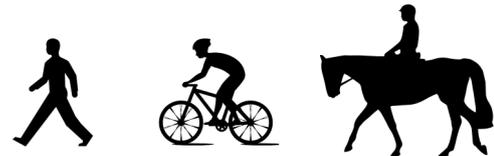
Cocking: Harvest Festival at 9.30 am on **7th October**, followed by Harvest lunch in the Village Hall at 12.30 pm. Please let Naomi Dekker know if you will be attending. ndekker@hotmail.co.uk

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.

September 2018

There is a fifth Sunday in September: this month our joint Benefice service is at St Catherine of Siena at 10 am. We will be hearing about the work of the South Downs Search and Rescue Service, and there will be a retiring collection to support their work.



Ride and Stride

Your chance to visit Sussex's unique places of worship, explore our beautiful countryside, get some exercise and have fun with family & friends. Sponsored Cyclists, Walkers, Horse Riders and Wheelchair users are all welcome to take part in this event. What's more you can help raise much needed funds to support the repair and restoration of our historic buildings. Join in on the **8th September** for a great day out.

This event raises money for the Sussex Historic Churches Trust, which helps to fund repairs to our churches when needed and we have been fortunate to receive grants from them in the past.

Our churches are open to sponsored riders and walkers, who try to visit as many churches as they can on the day.

If you are not riding or striding, you can help in other ways, by welcoming visitors to the church and making sure their visit is recorded: if you can help for an hour or two in your church, please have a word with your churchwarden.

Find out more: www.rideandstrideuk.org/
www.sussexhistoricchurchestrust.org.uk/

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



Midhurst Garden Club

Monday 10 September 2018

Canada, Alaska and the Butchart Gardens

Jenny Carter will be speaking on a fascinating subject, very little known to us, some that would be overlooked when talking about Plant Life. Yet Canada and Alaska are vast areas with thousands of hectares of untamed, natural beauty.

The Butchart Gardens, a National Historic Site spanning 55 acres of pristine land on Vancouver Island comprise six huge floral displays.

Visitors always very welcome

For more information about the Club please contact Denise Skinner 01730 814194, askinner3@sky.com or check our website - midhurstgardenclub.co.uk

Going for gold - the Silver-spotted skipper

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

This summer, rather than watching any of the many sporting fixtures, I'll be sat on the turf watching a tiny orange butterfly racing around.

When it comes to sports, the Silver-spotted skipper is a true Olympian and stands on all levels of the podium. Their wings are golden and bronze with shining silver panels on the underside. It's one of our smallest butterflies and it gymnastically zips, twists and flips around the downland turf at incredible speeds.

The thing they love most is sunbathing. In Sussex you'll only find them on the hottest slopes of the South Downs where they seek out their favourite hotspots – the bare ground created by grazing animals. This heats up and forms a microclimate much warmer than the surrounding grass - and to a tiny butterfly that's the difference between Iceland and Ibiza.

These butterflies were doing fine for centuries but changes in economics and agricultural policies took the sheep off the Downs and the cold shadows of tall grasses, brambles and thorns took over. With their habitat cooling, the future looked dark for our sun-loving skipper and by 1990 it was facing extinction in Britain. In Sussex it held on at a few colonies on the far eastern edge of the South Downs. But the world has started to change again; we're getting hotter! As the global temperatures rise, people and polar bears are panicking but this little butterfly has kept its cool. It is finding that there are now more of those nice hot microclimates available.

Meanwhile, conservation groups across the South Downs have brought back grazing to conserve our precious chalk downland habitat. Malling Down near Lewes where the hungry Herdwick sheep graze is one of the hotspots for this skipper in Sussex. The stage is set for a Silver-spotted comeback!



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