



Under the Downs

3 Country Churches Nestling Under the Downs

View From the Rectory

One of the journeys I made whilst on holiday just recently was by ferry to the Cinque Terre, or Five Lands, on the northwest Italian coast. Straightforward one might think, as we left the main port of La Spezia in beautiful sunshine with calm seas. Very soon, the clouds gathered and the wind rose, with the inevitable consequence that the water became very choppy. The challenge was coming into Manarola - not a port this time, just a rocky inlet, with only a narrow channel between the hidden underwater rocks, and of course our small ferry began to bounce significantly.

How to reach the shore? Two gangways hinged together, one hinged to the dockside and the other to the ferry. So however much vertical (and some horizontal!) movement there was, we had the assurance that everything would stay connected and we would reach the shore safely. There were also a few experienced sailors at either end, to ensure that the less able did not take a tumble.

It is so much like the journey of life, isn't it, which has its ups and downs, and can certainly be extremely choppy and hazardous at times.

Through it all we have the assurance of faith to hold us fast: it helps to have experienced travellers alongside: and we know that like those gangways, firmly fixed between our starting point and our destination, even though there will be some movement along the way, faith and trust in God will keep us safe on our spiritual journey too.

Linda

Heyshott Cream Tea - Sunday June 9th in and outside the Cobden Hall

Join us from 2.30 - 5 pm for tea in the hall, marquee or on the grass, depending on the sunshine!

Raffle, plant stall, and Richard's famous map, plus the opportunity to meet and chat with people you may not have seen for a while.

If you are feeling fit, there are two opportunities for guided walks to see the orchids on the lower slopes of Heyshott Down, leaving at 2.45 and 3.15 pm.

All proceeds to St James' Church funds.

Looking ahead...

The Cocking and Bepton Fete is on Saturday 7th September, 2 - 4 pm at Cocking Rectory.

Please note

There is **no White Elephant stall** this year, so please do not leave donations of items at the Rectory.

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

Cocking Open Gardens

Sunday 16 June 2019 11 am to 5 pm All proceeds in aid of the Bluebell Hub

June 2019

Sunday 30th June

There is a fifth Sunday in June: this month our joint Benefice service is at St Catherine of Siena Cocking at 10 am.

Garden Song

In the Jackson's Garden

On Saturday 15 June from 1:30-4:30pm there will be a church event in the garden at Casters Brook, with tea, cakes, some music and a chance to sing a favourite hymn if you like.

We look forward to seeing you.

More Tea Vicar?

A monthly local get together at the Chicken Shed Cafe. Open to all, not just those who are Lunch Club regulars, we will be having tea and cake, and the chance to chat, between 2.30 and 4.00 pm

Next dates are:

14 June

12 July

No need to book, just drop in, and why not bring a friend? Tea and cake for £4 per person. Hope to see you there.

Summer Concert at Bepton

On Saturday 8 June at 3pm do come to St Mary's to hear Tina Gelnere prize-winning mezzo-soprano from Latvia who is currently studying opera at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She will be accompanied by Chris Coote, local recitalist and Chairman of the Bognor Regis Music Club. Tickets (including refreshments) cost £12 (children 7-16 free) obtainable from Sheila Ryan, Bayleaves, Bepton GU29 9RB tel: 01730 813971 or e-mail bayleaves@macace.net



514 Squadron RAF: 30th June 1944

On the west wall of St. Catherine's Church, Cocking there is a brass memorial plaque commemorating five crew members of a Lancaster bomber who were killed on 30th June 1944 in a mid-air collision over Pitsham Farm. This is their story.

In late June 1944, three weeks after the D-Day landings, the Allied forces were attempting to outflank and seize the German-occupied city of Caen. Fighting in "Operation Epsom" had lasted four days, with the allies meeting stiff resistance from the German army. On the night of 30th June, 266 heavy bombers took off from airfields across England heading for Villers-Bocage, 15 miles south-west of Caen. The small town stood on a major road junction through which two divisions of German panzers were due to pass en-route to counter-attack the allied forces.

Avro Lancaster Mark III Bomber PB178, with 21-year old Pilot Officer Jack Hannesson of the Royal Canadian Air Force at the controls, took off from RAF Waterbeach in Cambridgeshire at 18:18 to join the flotilla of aircraft heading for northern France. The aircraft had been scheduled to join the formation at Luton, but was late in taking off, and as a result missed the rendezvous time. The aircraft continued on its flight plan until it reached Sussex, where Gunner Sergeant Harry Morgan spotted a group of bombers approaching from the rear. Hannesson turned his aircraft intending to take up position when Bomber Sergeant Tom Colbeck reported that another aircraft was closing in.

In an attempt to avoid a collision, the pilot dived but unfortunately, he flew into a third aircraft, a Halifax of 15 Squadron No. PB178. At 5,000 feet above Midhurst, the tailplane of the Lancaster sliced into the Halifax.

Pilot Officer Jack Hannesson and the Flight Engineer, Sergeant Kenneth Fox were killed instantly in the collision, as was Flight Sergeant Andrew Pawlyk in the Halifax. Two of the crew of the Lancaster, Tom Colbeck and the Wireless Operator, Sergeant Bert Brown managed to bale out. They both survived with minor injuries, and were briefly treated at the King Edward VII Sanatorium.

The three remaining crew members of the Lancaster lost their lives as the plane crashed in the orchards between Pitsham Farm and Bepton.

The five men commemorated in St Catherine's Church are:

Pilot Officer Jack Edward Kristjan Hannesson, Royal Canadian Air Force, aged 21.

Sergeant Kenneth Edward Arthur Fox, RAF Volunteer Reserve, aged 20.

Flight Sergeant Beverley Gordon Lee, Royal Australian Air Force, aged 31.

Pilot Officer Andrew Lorne George, Royal Canadian Air Force, aged 30.

Sergeant Harry James Morgan, RAF, aged 24.

The Halifax managed to reach Ford airfield where it landed safely, with the loss of the rear gunner, 22-year old Flight Sergeant Andrew Pawlyk of the Royal Canadian Air Force. The aircraft was subsequently repaired and returned to service.

After the war, Tom Colbeck joined the Vancouver Fire Department, retiring as the District chief after 36 years of service in 1982. He died in November 2013, aged 91 and was survived by three sons, two daughters and 15 grandchildren. Sadly, I have been unable to discover anything more about the other survivor, Sergeant Bert Brown of the RAF Volunteer Reserve.

Earlier that month, on 8th June, an American Air Force P-38 Lightning aircraft was returning to its base at Honington in Suffolk after a raid in France. The aircraft got into difficulty and crashed at Ball Wood on the downs above Bepton, killing the only occupant, the pilot 2nd Lieutenant Loren Wilson. In attempting to rescue the pilot, a Special Constable and Fireman were both injured by exploding ammunition. In the 1950s, children from Bepton were injured when tampering with live rounds. Children are also said to have been responsible for rolling one of the fighter's engines down the steeply sloping side of the Downs.

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