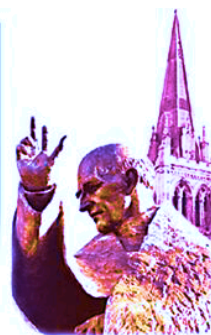




# The Society

under the patronage of Saint Wilfrid and Saint Hilda

## In the Chichester Diocese



# NEWSLETTER

## MAY 2015

### CHICHESTER DIOCESAN Corpus Christi Celebration



Sunday  
June 7th  
4pm at St  
Mary's  
Eastbourne

### Bishop Martin will lead a service of Benediction

followed by refreshments

We are hoping for a packed Church  
from Parishes across the Diocese



Please do come  
and join us



Numbers to [sswshchichester@msn.com](mailto:sswshchichester@msn.com)

[www.sswshchichester.weebly.com](http://www.sswshchichester.weebly.com)

### FLOURISHING IN THE GOSPEL!

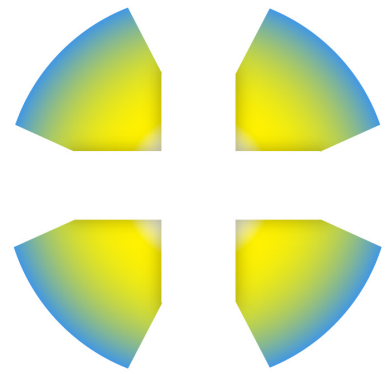
On June 7<sup>th</sup> Bishop Martin wishes to address the Catholic constituency in the Chichester Diocese. It will be a time of encouragement and vision for us in this Diocese for the future.

It is very important that we encourage as many people to come along to this act of Worship on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Please could you email numbers to Fr Tom Mendel :-  
[tomendel@talktalk.net](mailto:tomendel@talktalk.net)  
Or ring 01323 720420

Please share  
transport and  
make a day of it

after your own morning Mass. Please make every effort to attend.

## REPORT OF A LENTEN QUIET DAY ORGANISED BY FORWARD IN FAITH CHICHESTER



Over 30 people gathered in the rural church of St Mary the Virgin Barnham, West Sussex, for a Lenten Quiet Day organised by Forward in Faith Chichester on Saturday 28th February. The speaker was Bishop Alan Chesters who gave two addresses and celebrated Mass at

12 noon.

Everyone was appreciative of the Bishop's thoughtful reflections and between his addresses participants were engaged in silent contemplation and reading in the peaceful and beautiful surroundings of this ancient church. A hearty soup lunch was provided by ladies from St Mary's.

The day concluded with Benediction given by Fr. Mark Gilbert SSC, Chairman of Forward in Faith Chichester and the Society Bishop's Representative in the Diocese. The Walsingham Prayer was recited at the image of Our Lady after Benediction. Quiet Days were also held in Eastbourne and Haywards Heath on the same day, all organised by the diocesan branch of Forward in Faith.

St. Mary's Barnham is one of three village churches each with different traditions but united as a single parish for over 20 years. There is a lively and growing congregation with many young families and a firm commitment to the Catholic Faith. The church building was saved from closure in the 1990s and is now shared with the local Roman Catholic community whose chapel in the village closed in 2005.

## NEWS – FR MARK

The episcopate in the Church of England is now open to women. The package that allows this development also includes a way for the Church of England to remain together despite the differences of belief that are held about the General Synod's decision.

The House of Bishops' Declaration describes a way for parishes to resolve to have priests and bishops whose sacramental ministry is assured for those who cannot receive the ministry of a female bishop based on their theological conviction. The way in which this works will be monitored by an Independent Reviewer. A parish that makes this resolution will remain an active part of the diocese and deanery, and will be free to flourish and grow because of the confidence they have in the ordination of their clergy.

### So, what do we do now?

Principles, which give us a guarantee that the Catholic theological understanding of ministry will continue to be given an honoured place in the Church of England.

1. Women as well as men can be bishops in the Church of England, and are to be respected, and
2. Everyone needs to acknowledge that this is the decision that has been made by the Church of England, but
3. This is a decision made without the agreement of the whole of the Church worldwide, so it is part of a wider process of discernment throughout the whole Church.
4. Disagreeing with the decision remains a legitimate Anglican position, and the Church of England is committed to allowing those who disagree to flourish within its life and structures, and
5. Pastoral and sacramental provision will be made for them, without a time limit, in a way that maintains as much communion as is possible, and contributes to mutual flourishing.

### The Society

The Society (under the Patronage of St Wilfrid and St Hilda) is not a membership organization but an ecclesial body led by a council of bishops including the Flying Bishops and any other Church of England bishops who

agree with the objects of the Society. Although it is not a membership society we wish to encourage you to register your emails, names and addresses on the Chichester SSWSH website so we can send you information. Please consider joining Forward in Faith, its image is changing and it is only through its financial support that The Society can flourish.

The Society gives confidence for the future because we can rely on the sacramental ministry of Society priests and bishops. For a full understanding of the legislation please go to The Society and the Forward in Faith websites. <http://www.sswsh.com> <http://www.forwardinfaith.com>

### ***The five principles in practice. Gracious changes to the actions***



At Bishop Philip North's consecration, before the service the Archbishop of York briefed the congregation on what was about to happen. He made it clear that Archbishops always had the right to delegate a consecration to another bishop. He also affirmed that he would be seen as the Provincial, and though the other bishops would form a circle round the candidate and be praying for the gift of the Spirit at this time only three bishops would lay on hands, the Bishop of Chichester, with the bishops of Pontefract and Beverley. He stressed that this decision had been taken long before there was even the name of the first woman bishop, and finally, almost as an emphatic aside, he said that there was no question of "taint" about the non hand laying bishops. He almost shouted "there is no such thing"!

We had a very encouraging day in February when we gathered together Priests across the Diocese who were interested in making a declaration to become Society Priests and many have now made that declaration. The Bishop of Horsham led us by Celebrating Mass and giving us a charge.

There are plans for a Regional Residential for clergy with neighbouring Dioceses to explore how we can go forward. These plans are in the pipeline.

# The Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham March 2015



After a long but exciting six-hour journey on the mini-bus, we finally arrived in Walsingham on Friday 6 March. We were all quite tired but we were all very excited as we knew we were going to have a great time; and we did! We first went up to the holy shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham to pray and to find out a little bit of the history of Walsingham and about what Mary said to Richeldis.

On Saturday we woke up early, as we were too excited to sleep in. After breakfast we walked the Holy Mile, which was very painful for those of us who chose to walk it barefoot, but on the whole it was fun as two of my new friends (who weren't walking barefoot) were very supportive and cheered me on. It was also fun because when we were parading through the streets of Walsingham we made as much noise as we could and we made up our own song for mighty, mighty Chichester, which attracted lots of attention from the people in Walsingham! When we came back from the holy mile we went to the Shrine Church for a service of 'cleansing' where we received the waters from the Holy Well. Following lunch we changed into our 'Spring Your Life' t-shirts for it was time for the bouncy castles! We had so much fun on the bouncy castles and we made friends with quite a few of the children

from other parishes. There were also fake tattoos that we could have, and we could even have our faces painted! Lots of us did crafts and made gifts for our friends and family. It was amazing! After dinner we went back to our rooms and changed into our disco clothes and did our hair, for it was time for the disco! We danced for a while, and then the DJ announced that there was a competition for the best/craziest dancing and the top three would win a big balloon! Even for those of us that didn't win a balloon, we didn't care because we had such a fantastic time singing and dancing at the disco anyway.

On Sunday we were all very sad to be leaving, as we had had a lovely time at Walsingham. but first we had the Children's Mass in the Shrine, then lunch and then we went to the shrine for one last time for a service of Benediction and sang our theme song, 'Water of Life', and said our goodbyes to our friends in the other parishes.

Our time at Walsingham was great fun and I will remember it for the rest of my life. For many of us it had been our first time there and, for me, it definitely won't be the last! Walsingham was amazing and everything we did there was wonderful. I can't wait until my next visit!

Hannah Carmichael (aged 11)

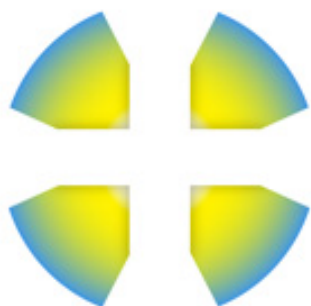
## **Diocesan Synod Elections**

By the middle of May notice of the new elections for Diocesan Synod will be sent out. The actual election period is in June. Please do consider standing for election or ensuring that we have a reasonable number from your deanery. Too often there are vacancies in both the houses of laity and clergy which we could easily fill. You do not have to be a member of Deanery Synod to stand for election – just be on the electoral roll of your parish church.

Why is it important that we are represented on this body? As members of the Diocesan Synod we are able to vote for those on the various boards and councils and in particular the Bishop's Council and the Vacancy-in-See committee. If we are not represented we will not have a vote. Diocesan Synod members also have the opportunities to take part in debates about the Diocese and the wider Church.

Please consider how you can contribute in this way by standing for election yourself or finding others to do so.

Mary Nagel



FORWARDINFAITH

**DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY  
AND ANNUAL GENERAL  
MEETING 2015 will be  
held at St John the  
Divine, Worthing  
starting at 12noon with  
Mass. Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>  
September**

THE PARISH OF ALDINGBOURNE, BARNHAM & EASTERGATE 

**ST MARY, THE VIRGIN BARNHAM**

**PATRONAL FESTIVAL MASS**



**SATURDAY 15 AUGUST 12NOON**

Celebrant and Preacher Bishop Alan Chesters

Lunch in the churchyard after Mass

Sunday 16th August  
Mass at 8am and 11.15am  
Evensong and Benediction 4.30pm

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



# Chichester Diocesan Walsingham Pilgrimage Committee



## Join the Chichester Coach



The Walsingham  
Youth Pilgrimage

27<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> July 2015

27th -  
31st July

Led by Fr John  
Eldridge.

Age: 11 -18 plus Cost:  
£120 to include food  
& transport BEFORE  
11th May 2015 (after  
this date the cost will rise  
to £140)

For further details  
contact Fr John Eldridge,

St. John's Vicarage

Reigate Road,  
Worthing, West Sussex,

BN11 5NF 01903

247340

frjohn@live.co.uk

Download forms

[www.sswshchichester.weebly.com](http://www.sswshchichester.weebly.com)

Contact:- Fr Mark Gilbert SSC email:- [sswshchichester@msn.com](mailto:sswshchichester@msn.com)