

Chichester Diocese



Mrs Mary Nagel & Fr Mark Gilbert will lead a team of Adult leaders (groups may bring their own leader if they wish).

Children aged 7-11 (Year 6)

Cost £99 for transport, accommodation and all meals. (Cost for Adult leaders £120)

Fun Work

Shops drama, music, art & craft

Great Worship with young people from all over Britain

Disco Party & Outdoor Games

and lots to discover and explore in Walsingham.

We will ask permission for you to be excused from school on the 15th March as it is an educational trip, but this is at the discretion of the Headteacher.

www.sswshchichester.weebly.com

Could you sponsor a child from Chichester Diocese who might otherwise be unable to attend? If so please contact Fr Mark Gilbert.

 **The Society**
In the Chichester Diocese



ADVENT 2018



DIOCESE OF CHICHESTER
YEAR OF VOCATION
2019

The Society Prayer

Heavenly Father, bless the bishops, clergy and people of The Society. Bind us together in love and faith. Renew us in service and witness. And by your Holy Spirit guide our future and make plain your purposes. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saint Wilfrid, pray for us.

Saint Hilda, pray for us.



THE SOCIETY IN CHICHESTER DIOCESE CONTACTS

Society Bishop: The Bishop of Chichester

Bishop's Representative: Canon Mark Gilbert SSC

Tel : 01798 345278 Email: frmarkssc@msn.com

Administration: Bradley Smith

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Website: sswshchichester.weebly.com



HIGH MASS!

Mass was celebrated at the top of the Brighton i360 on the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (September 8th) by the Wagner group of churches . A wonderful setting to pray for the people, churches and mission around Brighton! The celebrant was Fr Anthony Murley of the church of the Annunciation in Brighton's Hanover.

40 HOUR DEVOTION

40 Hours of continuous Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament as part of the global *Thy Kingdom Come* wave of prayer



Thursday 6th June to Saturday 8th June 2019

Church of the Annunciation, Washington Street, Brighton

DETAILS TO FOLLOW—PLEASE SAVE THE DATES

DAILY PRAYER FOR PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

**Almighty God, give us priests:
to establish the honour of your holy name;
to offer the holy sacrifice of the altar;
to give us Jesus in the holy sacrament;
to proclaim the faith of Jesus;
to baptise and to teach the young;
to tend your sheep;
to seek the lost;
to give pardon to the penitent sinner
to bless our homes;
to pray for the afflicted;
to comfort mourners;
to strengthen us in our last hour;
to commend our souls;
Almighty God, give us priests!**



ROSARY DAYS 2019

Teaching days for adults and children,
organised by the Diocesan Pilgrimage
Committee

Saturday 8th June at St Richard's Haywards Heath
Saturday 15th June at St John the Divine West Worthing
Saturday 22nd June at Christ Church St Leonard's-on-Sea

Details to follow—please save the dates.



YEAR OF VOCATION 2019

**The Revd Dr Daniel Inman
introduces plans for the
Diocesan Year of Vocation**

Readers may remember that at the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, the then Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, quoted Catherine of Alexandria at the end of his homily: "Be the person whom God made you to be, and you will set the world on fire". Bishop Richard was seeking to underline how marriage can itself be a vehicle of God's grace, a means by which we come to our true selves and, so becoming, not only find our relationship with our spouse and God enriched, but the world somehow changed – 'set on fire' – with the power of the Holy Spirit. St Catherine's words, like the tagline to the Year of Vocation pinched from St Irenaeus ('the glory of God is a human being fully alive'), go right to the heart of what we mean when we use the word 'vocation'. It isn't just a way of talking about particular authorized or ordained ministries within the Church (a word for those we might consider to be 'very religious'), but relates to our deepest desires, to those occasions where – to use the language of psychology – we discover a deep *congruence* between ourselves, our neighbour, creation and God.

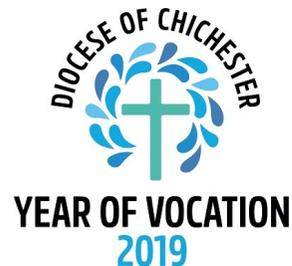
That deep *congruence* is, I think, another way of talking about *joy*. Preparing for the Year of Vocation Lent Course, I have had the privilege of visiting a number of laypeople and talking to them about how they live out their Christian faith. As I interviewed them, what kept emerging was the word 'joy' – that is, in the particular stream in which they were swimming (whether as a farmer, carer, artist or mental-health campaigner), their desires, gifts and relationships were channelled in such a way that their daily life was a source of joy. As with Tom, a farmer, this joy came from a lifelong and inherited commitment to working God's soil as a farmer, but for several others this joy was something they stumbled upon. For others, however, this joy came, as famously for C.S. Lewis, as something of a surprise. Sometimes it was through observing God's creation and experiencing a sudden shift in the way the person saw and engaged with God and the world. Sometimes this congruence was discovered in the aftermath of trauma, following a period of real trial, suffering or anxiety. Sometimes too it was 'a word' from someone close to them, or even a stranger, who prompted a turning-point in the individual's life. In each case, how-

-ever, the person had stepped into a new, life-giving and transformative pattern of life and prayer that was 'setting the world on fire'; and it was a joy to behold.

That goes some way to describing the purpose of the Year of Vocation in the Diocese. It is *not* just a means to get people to do more, to be ordained or take up some form of new ministry in the Church (though that might be an unexpected result of the year), but to encourage everyone in the Diocese – clergy and laity alike – to think more deeply about what it means for them to become the people God has made them to be; to die to that sin which clings so closely and to rise with Jesus Christ to a new, richer life in which the fire of the Spirit burns within them.

The Diocese has prepared a range of resources for this, all shaped around the Christian year and paying particular attention to the promises of our baptism – including a Lent Course (*Living Christ*); an opportunity to join the *Living Faith* discipleship course across the diocese; as well as a 'Rule of Life' for individuals to use, prepared by Bishop Martin. The Bishop is also launching the 'Order of St Richard' – an honour, granted by the Bishop, that seeks to recognize the life-long service of laypeople across the Diocese to their church and community; the first awards will be made at a ceremony in the Cathedral in October. Alongside a range of other opportunities for schools and parishes to use, as well as Exploration Days throughout the year for people feeling a draw to preaching, to prophetic action in their communities, and the sacramental ministries of the Church, there are many ways in which we hope communities and individuals will explore what it means for them to come fully alive in Jesus Christ.

Above all, we hope it will be an opportunity for every individual (including you, the reader!) to ponder more deeply what it would mean for your deepest desires to meet with the goodness and grace of God – to be set ablaze with love.



VISIT THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE TO FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT THE YEAR OF VOCATION

<https://www.chichester.anglican.org/yov2019/>

On returning to the parish, we felt the experience and love of the Holy House returned with us and reinforced our community as strong Christians together.

My journey to the Holy Land left a lasting impression on me and a piece of me remains there. The Holy Shrine left a lasting impression on me and I look forward to my return to recharge and reconnect with the peace and holiness of this very special place.

Jackie Reeves worships at St Mary's Barnham



Father John Underhill reports on the FiF National Assembly

Being in the thick of the tech at the National Assembly lets me work on the addresses, questions and answers after others are awaiting them on the website, and this year provided some truly great material! As a place of practical support for Society parishes, the Assembly was indispensable, and I really urge all church wardens and incumbents to listen to the audio tracks on 'Vacancies in Society Parishes.'

However, the jewel of this year's Assembly was the defence of the seal of the confessional. In a time when elements within the Church of England are arguing – through ignorance – for the deconstruction of the Sacrament in ways they do not fully comprehend, it brought renewed fire to the Faith to: 'call on the House of Bishops to re-affirm the Seal of the Confessional as an essential principle of the doctrine of the universal Church, as received by the Church of England, and call on Society priests to reassure the faithful that they will maintain absolute confidentiality with regard to what is confessed in sacramental confession.'

To be reminded that parishes and clergy are not isolated, but united by our faith in Christ, especially at times such as these, is invaluable!

Sound files from the National Assembly are available here

<https://www.forwardinfaith.com/NationalAssemblies.php?id=231&year=2018>



***'O Holy House of Walsingham,
here would we ever dwell.....'***

***Jackie Reeves reports on her first
pilgrimage to England's Nazareth***

Earlier this year, I was privileged enough to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Whilst there, I stood in awe in the Holy House in Nazareth.

Early in November this year, I was privileged enough to go on pilgrimage to Walsingham for the first time and stood in awe in the Holy House in England's Nazareth. To be honest, I didn't know quite what to expect, although I had heard from friends about the tranquillity and quietness of the place.

The pilgrimage began with Mass at St Mary's, Barnham, and as pilgrims we were blessed for our journey and a fruitful time at Walsingham. Our arrival was in darkness, but it was obvious we were entering a place of great serenity and peace – an oasis from the constant demands and distractions of everyday life.

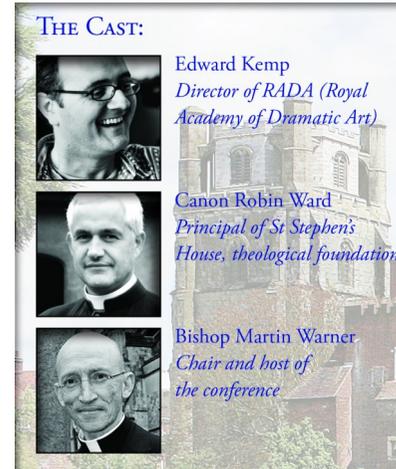
Once settled in our comfortable accommodation our first introduction to the Holy House was a humbling experience as the importance of the role of Our Lady pointing towards her son and our salvation began to become clear. This theme was reinforced throughout the pilgrimage, with the wonderful hospitality which nourished the body as well as the soul.

The joining together with fellow pilgrims from other parts of the country was both uplifting and reassuring, being around people with common values and beliefs. We celebrated Mass with the local community in the parish Church, as well as within the Shrine where we shared in the rites of sprinkling and anointing.

The experience of Mass with the laying on of hands and the opportunity for confession was truly moving – the feeling of healing power was palpable. The ending of the pilgrimage was marked by a joint Mass with all the other pilgrims which saw us all bidding a fond farewell to the Holy House. This final act consolidated the thoughts and experiences of the preceding days – a deeper appreciation of the place of Our Lady and her intercessions for us, a sense of being closer to her and a deeper understanding of her compassion for us in our daily human struggles.

HOLY PLAY: LITURGY AS THEATRE

**.Hedley Christ reports on a successful conference sponsored by the
The Society in Chichester Diocese.**



The nature of performance was the theme of the day's conference on Holy Play at The Bishop's Palace, Chichester. Two speakers, Mr. Edward Kemp, writer, theatre director, Director of RADA, and son of Bishop Kemp, and Canon Robin Ward, Principal of St. Stephen's House, Oxford, both spoke about the nature of performance from their own perspectives. The morning session was given by Edward Kemp from his perspective of chorister, as a young boy, to his professional capacity within the world of theatre.

He gave illustrations on how imagination, the suspension of disbelief, and being carried by a story, no matter what the surroundings, can, at that moment, transform us, as the actors transform themselves. By the use of a single hand, he took us to the sky-line of New York, and, through his personal and lecturing techniques, showed, with few or no props, how a story can unravel before us.

The afternoon session was given by Canon Robin Ward through his perspective as priest, within the Anglo-Catholic tradition, and Principal of St. Stephen's House, how we too can be transformed, particularly in the Eucharist. Those aspects of ritual also allow us, through imagination and story-telling, to become closer to God, through the mediation of Christ Jesus.

The conference was a truly wonderful experience, for all those who attended. Taking away with them a deeper understanding of how one is, and can be, transformed by the power of those enacting a scene before them, and how, by that enactment, we may have a deeper spiritual experience in worship.

Hedley Christ worships at St Michael's in Lewes.

**Sound files of the conference are now available on the website
<https://holyplayday.weebly.com/>**



Parish of Portslade
& Mile Oak

NORTHUMBERLAND PILGRIMAGE 11TH – 16TH APR 2019

*Led by Fr Andrew Birks, Curate
Parish of Portslade & Mile Oak*

*Following the footsteps of
St Aidan, St Cuthbert & St Bede!*

Visiting:

*Holy Island & Alnmouth
Bamburgh & Rothbury
Hexham
Newcastle & Corbridge*



*4 nights in Hexham
1 night on Holy Island*

£500



*Price includes travel, trips, & hotels
(half board)*

Contact Fr Andrew Birks for more information

01273 418090

agb.75@hotmail.com

St Mary's Church, Church Street,
Littlehampton. BN17 5EN

BE PREPARED!

An Advent Quiet Day

Led by Canon Beau Brandie SSC

Saturday 15th December

10.30am to 4.00pm

(Coffee will be available from 10.00am)



The day will include three addresses.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at 12.00noon.

Evening Prayer and Benediction at 3.00pm followed by tea.

Please bring your own sandwiches. Soup and hot drinks will be provided.

For further information and to book a place please contact Bradley Smith on
07931 527724 or email bradley.smith4@gmail.com



FORWARDINFAITH

The following morning we made our way to Emmaus, where our Lord was made known to us in the breaking of the bread, before saying our farewells and departing for the airport.

The Pilgrimage was an incredibly moving, challenging, uplifting and refreshing time full of contrasts from the peace on the Sea of Galilee to the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem, from the emptiness of the wilderness to the crowds in the Church of the Nativity, from the noise of the traffic to the beautiful sound of the pilgrims singing the Salve Regina in the Basilica of the Dormition of the Virgin Mary.

Bishop Martin's addresses and devotions at every point spoke to the heart of all who journeyed in the footsteps of Jesus. If ever you have the opportunity to be a pilgrim to the Holy Land it will forever change your perception of those familiar Bible passages and shape your faith in new and exciting ways.

Fr David King is Vicar of the Society Parish of St. Andrew Eastbourne.

Congratulations to our new General Synod member Michael Thomas

Dear reader,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself as newest member of the Catholic Group on the General Synod.

My name is Michael Thomas, I have been a worshipper in the Diocese of Chichester all my adult life and for the last 26 years have worshipped at St Richard's Haywards Heath. During this time, on and off, I have been the churchwarden totalling 14 years in all, serving four parish priests and guiding the parish through three interregnums. This, with Cuckfield Deanery Standing Committee work, will hopefully be enough experience to assist me in contributing positively to the work of General Synod.

My professional life is as a commuter to the City of London working in the insurance industry which has kept me busy for the past 40 years. However, what motivates me the most, alongside my Christian faith is my wife and family of three young adult sons.

Whilst on General Synod I hope to fully support the catholic cause within the Church of England and in particular the upholding of the sevenfold sacramental nature the Church. I am passionate that we should together maintain the principles of the Society and of Forward in Faith. Pray God gives me strength to do his will.

Michael Thomas



Jill Armstead reports on an enjoyable Walsingham Bible Weekend.

I joined the Bible weekenders with mixed feelings this year doubtful that the annual Bible Weeks, created, together with the Fan the Flame missions out of the Caister conferences, could successfully be squeezed into a regular pilgrimage weekend. How wrong I was!

From Fr Kevin's short address before Night Prayer on Friday when we sang our theme for the weekend, *Now the Green Blade riseth* to the final *Our Lady's Shrine Farewell* on Sunday afternoon, it was an experience I longed to share with despondent traditional Anglicans everywhere.

It is safe to say that we we were all blown away by Bishop Michael Langrish's exploration of the Gospel accounts of the Resurrection, its translation into the sacrifice of the Mass and in my mind, mulling it all over afterwards, our own transformation into Saint Teresa of Avila's prayer, *Christ has no body but ours* to bring the Good News to others.



Fr Peter Anthony's slideshow of the Resurrection in works of art, in particular, the artists' expression of the mystery of the Easter Gospel was a joy and for me the intense delight in having one's knowledge pushed in a new direction.

In conclusion, Bible Weekend was a more satisfying, intense experience and together with the familiar pilgrimage liturgies and devotions, a joyful, faith-enhancing experience.

Jill Armstead worships at St Mary's Barnham.

View the Shrine Photo Gallery

<https://www.walsinghamanglican.org.uk/photo-gallery/bible-weekend-2018/>

BIBLE WEEKEND 2019 is 15th– 17th November

The Fifth Gospel....

Fr David King reflects on a life-changing pilgrimage to the Holy Land



Arriving at Luton Airport in the early hours of 25th October we started playing the game spot the Pilgrim, trying to identify those who would be joining us on Pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Bishop Martin Warner. By the time we had landed at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv we had found all of the Luton contingent and then waited for those travelling from Heathrow to join us. We were met by Rob from Lightline Pilgrimages and introduced to Sami our local guide. As we travelled on the coach to our first hotel, he explained how the Holy Land is sometimes referred to as the Fifth gospel, and as the week progressed we came to understand exactly what he meant. The land itself, the places visited and Sami's knowledge of the local culture added so much to our understanding of the life and ministry of our Lord.



It is hard to express in such a short piece just what we experienced as pilgrims but here is a just a taste of some of my personal highlights of what was a joyous, challenging and life changing week.

The first site we visited was Dalmanutha, by the Sea of Galilee, the place where Jesus met Peter after the Resurrection and asked him three times if he loved him. A question that we are all challenged to answer and a fitting place to begin our journey in the footsteps of Christ. From here we travelled to the Mount of Transfiguration for our first Mass. Mass was central to our Pilgrimage and we were fortunate to be able to

celebrate in some beautiful and poignant locations throughout the week: Tabgha (the site of the feeding of the 5000), St Philip's Anglican church in Nablus (where we heard the very moving story of Palestinian Christians living out their faith today) The Shepherds' fields outside Bethlehem, St Peter in Gallinacantu, The "Ecce

Homo" Basilica in Jerusalem, and Emmaus. Each of these places moved us in many different ways. One particularly poignant moment was the raising of the Host at the invitation to communion in Jerusalem "Behold the Man!"

It was during our Mass at the Shepherds Fields that the Clergy present had the opportunity to renew their Ministerial Vows. To do this in the place where the Good News of Jesus Christ was first heard added a special dimension to the charge to proclaim afresh the gospel in every generation. Other vows were also renewed on the Pilgrimage, Baptismal Vows at the river Jordan and a very special moment for my wife and I as married couples were invited to renew their wedding vows at the church in Cana, the site of the first miracle. There was not a dry eye in the house.

One of the most challenging events of the Pilgrimage was the visit to a Palestinian



refugee camp just outside Bethlehem. Having visited the Basilica of the Nativity, the joy of the Word made flesh was followed by the sorrow at the plight of Palestinian refugees, those who have been forced from their homes by the Israeli Occupation. Palestinian Muslims, Christians and Jews living side by side because of their shared status of simply being Palestinian rather

than Israeli. Rather fittingly, this day drew to a close with a visit to Dominus Flevit, where Jesus wept over Jerusalem and ended as finally we shared the agony of our Lord at Gethsemane.

The last two days of our Pilgrimage focussed on Jerusalem, with the trail and crucifixion of Jesus. The Pilgrims visited a dungeon cell, from very early times venerated as the place where Jesus was held before his trial. We saw the Stone Pavement, where Jesus was led out to die, and walked the Via Dolorosa, making our devotions at the Stations of the Cross. The moment on a rooftop facing the Holy Sepulchre, where we remembered Jesus dying on the Cross was especially moving. As we knelt, we could have been at Golgotha on that day. The wind blew and there was silence – not a sound was heard despite being amongst the hustle and bustle of Jerusalem, a moment of pure devotion. A little later we made our visit to Calvary and the Holy Sepulchre, before making our own way back to our hotel for our final night.