

The Parish of Southwick with Portslade (St Theresa's and Mass Centre) and The Parish of West Blatchington with Hangleton (St George's)

The Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878

Parish Priest: The Rev Fr Alistair Simmons

Deacon: Rev Richard Harvey Tel: 01273 888823

Parish Contact Details

Parish Office: 92 Downland Avenue, SOUTHWICK, West Sussex, BN42 4RY

Telephone: 01273 708227

E-mail: st.theresa.southwick@gmail.com

Websites: www.st-theresas-southwick.org.uk www.stgeorges-hove.org.uk

Safeguarding Contacts

Maggie Wares (for Southwick & Portslade) 07919 335632

Awaiting appointment (for St George's) 07956 680395

St George's Parish Hall Bookings

Colm Lennon, tel: 01273 241661 or 07717 842966

Our Lord Jesus Christ the Universal King (Year A)

Volume 3, Number 53

26th November 2017

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 25th	6 pm	Portslade	People of the Parish
Sunday 26th	9.30 am	Southwick	Deceased members of the Rato & Rodrigues families RIP
	11 am	St George's	Kathleen "Kitty" McKenzie RIP
Monday 27th	1.30 pm	Southwick	<i>Requiem Mass - Karen Hale RIP</i>
Tuesday 28th	10 am	Portslade	Thomas Daly RIP
Wednesday 29th	10 am	St George's	NO MASS
Thursday 30th	7.30 pm	Southwick	Vanessa Pires RIP & Intentions of Guilu Pires
Friday 1st	12 noon	Portslade	Mary Sumner RIP
Saturday 2nd	6 pm	Portslade	In Thanksgiving
Sunday 3rd <i>Advent Sunday</i>	9.30 am	Southwick	People of the Parish
	11 am	St George's	Deceased members of the Alphonso & Moonjappilly families RIP

~ MORNING PRAYER ~
Tuesday & Friday, 9.15 am
~ EXPOSITION & BENEDICTION ~
as announced
~ CONFESSIONS ~
Saturdays 5.30 pm (Mass Centre) *by arrangement*,
Sundays following 11 am Mass (St George's) *on request*,
& at call

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN PORTSLADE

We stand on the cusp of the decision whether or not to disband the formal committee structure of the CTiP Forum with its mix of clergy and congregational members from various local Christian denominations.

If the Committee ceases to exist, will we notice any difference? Probably not. The events and gatherings which have always gone on will doubtless continue. So perhaps that means that the Committee is redundant anyway and achieves nothing? Maybe. It could also mean that the spirit of ecumenism is locally already so naturally, deep-rooted that it obviates the need for an organising Committee.

The average age of current Committee members could probably be estimated in the mid-seventies age bracket and that may be erring on the generous side. What is true of the Committee is equally true of those few die-hards who come along to support various CTiP events. There are just no younger members of our congregations coming forward to take on a representative role.

For too long the Committee has relied upon a very small but dedicated group of earnest, aging ecumenists to continue. Where is the generation to succeed them and to build on the inheritance that has been created?

We need to be realistic and honest enough to know that sometimes things outlive their usefulness. Yes, this can be painful but dying and rising are part of the natural cycle of life, part of the pattern of our faith. It may be time for the CTiP Forum in its present form to call it a day allowing space for time and prayer to see if something else may grow up in response. Our Christian spirituality calls us to be midwives as well as undertakers.

Ecumenism is an essential part of who we are. After all, the Lord Jesus prayed that all may be one ([John 17:21](#)). Local ecumenism will not die if it comes to the passing of the CTiP Forum and Committee but we will each need to take a personal responsibility in future to ensure that that does not happen.

Carol Singing at The Martlets

For many years, a group from St George's (and, latterly, from St Theresa's and the Mass Centre too) has visited The Martlets Hospice in the week before Christmas and sung carols for the benefit of the patients. This has always been appreciated.

However, the size of the group has been becoming smaller and, before we commit to The Martlets for this year, we need to ensure that there would be sufficient singers.

It's informal carol singing, not a choir performance, and children are very welcome. It's likely to be at about 6:30 p.m. one evening between 19th and 23rd December.

If you are willing to join the group, please put your name on the list at the back of the church and indicate which evenings you could do. Alternatively contact Helen (St George's) on 01273 779022 or the Parish Office on 01273 708227.

BIBLE SUNDAY 2017 - 10 December 2017

The theme this year for Catholic Bible Sunday on the second Sunday of Advent, is "Welcome the Word".

As part of our celebration of Mass that day **all** those who currently exercise the liturgical ministry of reader in our parishes will be invited make a formal renewal of their commitment. *If you wish to continue reading at Mass and appearing on the readers' rotas, please make every effort to be at one of the parish Masses on that particular Sunday.*

Emergency Sick Calls: The Parish Office

If no reply, try Fr Jerry O'Brien at St Peter's, Hove: 01273 733840

Information for the next newsletter to Wai-Fan

at the Parish Office no later than Wednesday 10 am please.

DIARY DATES

TODAY (26 November) - Solemnity of Christ the King (National Youth Sunday), the Confirmation Group will be leading the 11 am Mass at St George's.

NEXT SUNDAY (Advent Sunday 3 December) - A SERVICE FOR ADVENT (*Churches Together in Portslade*), 3 pm at the Mass Centre, Vale Gardens. Followed by refreshments. All welcome.

Tuesday 28 November - TEA AND CHAT, 10 am to 12 noon in St George's Hall. All very welcome.

Friday 1 December - CHRISTMAS FAIR, St Mary's School Portslade, 3 - 5 pm. Come and join in the festive fun with many stalls including: Selection Box Tombola, Bottle Tombola, Raffle, Christmas Crafts, Cakes & Festive Refreshments, Santa's Grotto, fantastic Class Stalls & Games and so much more! The PTA is looking for raffle prizes and people who can donate cakes; baked or shop-bought welcome. For further information contact Kristy Braswell kristybraswell@gmail.com

Friday 1 December - WORLD AIDS DAY CAROL SERVICE, 7 pm, St Andrew's Church, Portslade BN41 1LB. All welcome.

Saturday 2 December - PARISH ADVENT DAY OF RECOLLECTION, from 10 am to 4 pm, using the facilities of Compass House, at Worth Abbey. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided. You are invited to bring a plate of food so that we can have a shared lunch.

Sunday 3 December - COTTESMORE ST MARY'S ADVENT FAIR, at 12 - 3 pm. Get in the festive spirit and join us for mulled wine, mince pies, art and crafts, games, toys and cakes. There will be a raffle with many prizes and as it is the season of giving we will be collecting gifts of hats, gloves, socks and chocolates for "Off the Fence" our local homeless centre. Please come along and support us.

Sunday 17 December (Gaudete) - is the Third Sunday of Advent and we will celebrate BAMBINELLI SUNDAY when you are invited to bring the Baby Jesus / Bambino / Christ Child from your own crib or nativity at home and have them blessed.

Friday 22 December - CAROL SINGING on Portslade Village Green, 6.30 pm. Bring a torch or lantern and wrap up well. (If wet,

in the Parish Centre.) Followed by mince pies and mulled wine.

SACRAMENTS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Saturday 9 December, 9.30 - 11 am: The next preparation session for the children at The Mass Centre (Portslade).

Sunday 10 December, 3 pm - Celebration of First Confessions at St Theresa's.

CONFIRMATION

Thursday 7 December, 7 - 9 pm: The next session for candidates, in the Parish Room Meeting at St Theresa's.

NOTICES

A & B NEWS - the December edition of the free diocesan newspaper is now available. Please take a copy.

THE SVP are holding regular Tuesday evening prayer meetings, 7 pm for 7.15 pm start in St George's Church **from 5th December**. All welcome. If you need transport, please contact Colm Lennon on 07717 842966 about lifts.

Cottesmore St Mary Catholic Primary School will be holding an evening tour for parents with children starting school in September 2018 on 30th November at 7 pm. Please contact the school office on 01273 555811 to book your place.

DICK WHITTINGTON, *The Family Pantomime Adventure*, The Parish Centre, South Street, Portslade. Tickets £5: contact agb.75@hotmail.com or 01273 410044. 28th, 29th & 30th December at 7 pm. 31st December at 4 pm.

Wednesday 29 November - Saturday 2 December: CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2017 at St Peter's, West Blatchington, Hove. Wednesday 29th November, 11 am - 7 pm, Thursday 30th November 11 am - 7 pm, Friday 1st December 11 am - 4 pm, Saturday 2nd December 10 am - 2 pm. For more information please visit www.stpeterswestblatchington.org.uk

Decorating our churches for Christmas

We'd welcome new ideas for our Christmas decorations at St George's. Are you artistic? Or would you be willing to help decorate the church as part of a team? If so, we'd like to hear from you very soon. It's appropriate that our churches look their festive best for this major feast.

Reserve Cleaners at Needed at St Theresa's

It is disappointing that we have not had any response to our call for volunteers to form a "reserve-rota" to help clean St Theresa's from time to time if one of the regular volunteers is unable to do so.

The current 'reserve-rota' seems to consist of one person who is already regularly cleaning St Theresa's and the Mass Centre! If you are able to help (once monthly but probably less), and not already one of our volunteer cleaners, please speak to Mary Barry or call the Parish Office 01273 708227. Thank you.

ADVENT SMALL GROUPS

Wednesday evenings: (7.30 pm in the Parish Room, St Theresa's)

28th November (Tuesday), 6th, 13th and 20th December (Wednesdays)

Friday afternoons: (2 pm in the Mass Centre, Portslade)

1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd December.

Please pray ...

... for all the sick and / or housebound:

St Theresa's and The Mass Centre:

Stephen, Olive, Christopher, John, Roy, Giuseppe & Ester, Connie, Jean, Tom, Ena, Cheryl, Mark, Mary, Sheila, Elizabeth, Audrey, Mary, Stephen, Robert, Joan, Mac, Jean, Padiag, May, Heather, Christine, Ana, Keith and Anna.

St George's:

Lavinia, Elizabeth, Flo, Rev Andrew, Balavendra, Claire, Celia, Patrick, Maria, Compton, Vince, Ina, Sheilagh, Gwenda, Sandra and Fr David.

... for Christopher Winder, who died recently, and all whose anniversaries occur about this time:

St Theresa's and The Mass Centre:

Nigel Oxlade, Danny Moran, Alice Pattenden, Ronald Jupp, Lillian Hayes, Geraldine May, Stella Bell, Dermot McMahon, Patrick Gardiner, Steve Manser, Septima Knock, Patrick Barry, Philip Nunneley, John Kennard, Lilly Hitchings, Mary Colwell, Charles Lowe, Gordon Richardson, Francis Bignell and Arthur Doyle.

St George's:

James Whelan, Patrick (Paddy) McLoughlin, Derek Kimmins Olney, Richard Dumbrell, Peter Read and David John Richmond.