

Old+New

News from the
parishes of
St. Mary de Haura
and St Nicolas,
Shoreham by Sea

Issue 97—February 2012

Minimum donation 20p

A Fact of Life

Ash Wednesday is on 22nd February, when we will hear again those words, "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." They are not intended to be gloomy or depressing words – they are intended to be objective. There is a lot of glitter to life in the twenty-first century in the West. Many of us live quite well, have holidays, own quite a lot of possessions. Certainly I have far more material ways of enjoying myself than my parents or grandparents had. When I remember, I am grateful for all that I have – there is nothing intrinsically wrong with prosperity, so long as it is widely shared. But that sentence from Ash Wednesday is the objective fact – it was fact for my grandparents, and for my parents, and prosperity cannot change it.

So on Ash Wednesday we remember the fact of the matter, and in Lent, which follows, we try to bring the message home. There are many ways of observing Lent. The most traditional way is to give something up – a treat which one is used to – often something edible. Almsgiving, or charitable giving, is also an ancient way of observing Lent. Many people now speak of taking something up for Lent; maybe they set aside twenty or thirty minutes a day for spiritual reading, or maybe they make an extra effort to spend some time in prayer each day. The Lent course that happens each year is often a popular way of dedicating a little extra time. Different things suit different people. The important thing about all of these observances is that they remind us that we are in a time of prepa-

ration for the greatest festival of the Church's year.

And that is why those words on Ash Wednesday are not gloomy – they prompt us to turn to an alternative way of looking at life. In the Christian year, Lent turns us towards the Passion, but also towards Easter. In the place of dust which will return to dust, we turn towards life that will give us life. On Good Friday Christ will enter into that mortality which Ash Wednesday reminds us of. On Easter Day we receive new life – the life of resurrection.

To be reminded of our mortality at the beginning of Lent is a small price to pay for the life that we will celebrate at Easter.

Jonathan Smith

(Reader – Shoreham Old & New)



'Mums on a Mission': Becky, Emma and Anne manning a table in the Mothers' Union shop at the Shoreham Farmers' Market (see full story on back page)

MUSIC AT ST MARY de HAURA

'There is Sweet Music'

Shoreham Chamber Choir

Music by four great British choral composers
William Byrd, Edward Elgar
Charles Hubert Parry and Frank Bridge

Conductor: Stuart Hutchinson/
Organist: Philip Adams

Saturday, 18th February at 7.30 pm
Tickets—£5 on the door

'Concert by BYOSE'

Brighton Youth Orchestra String
Ensemble

Sunday, 19th February at 7.30 pm
Tickets—£7/£5 on the door

INSIDE: Calendar of services and events for the coming month

Mothers' Union News

Our branch of the Mother's Union has a busy year ahead. We are so proud of Michele Peet, Chris and Julie Gates who have trained as group facilitators on the Mother's Union 'Loving for Life' programme, the team work alongside clergy in offering marriage preparation for couples due to be married in our parishes. We look forward to hearing all about it at our morning group at 10 am Friday, February 3rd at Michele's house - 3 The Cygnets, Shoreham-by-Sea. BN43 5UH. Everyone welcome!

There are many other exciting events taking place this year at which you are all more than welcome to join us. On Friday March 2nd we will be celebrating 'Women's World Day of Prayer' and on 'Mothering Sunday' (18th March) we hope to enrol new members - please do ask one of the MU members at either church for more information if you would like to join the Mothers' Union (open to men and women).

If you would like to 'Make a Mother's Day' this Mothering Sunday, then there are a range of ethical gifts available to choose from. By doing this, you will be supporting another mother, and funding our work, in some of the world's most

deprived communities. Look out for the booklet at the back of both churches or go to www.makeamothersday.org

We are looking forward to a Diocesan Family Fun Day in July at Bentley Wildfowl & Motor Museum. 'Trains, Cranes and Automobiles' (Cranes of the feathered variety!), and are very excited about plans to have our own 'Family Fun Event' here in Shoreham in August, to celebrate Mary Sumner Day, (Founder of the Mother's Union).

Our 'Mums on a Mission' monthly sales that take place during the Farmers Market continue to do well and in January we raised £63. This will go to MU projects in Sussex, the UK and overseas. We have our own Facebook page for the sales 'Mums on a Mission, Shoreham-by-Sea'. If you are a 'facebooker' please LIKE this page and share it with your friends to spread the word!

If you have any queries or would like to find out more about our branch, please contact : Emma Ham-Riche, branch leader. 01273 452586 or e-hamriche@gmail.com

Sarah Akehrst

Family Support Work

Established in 1890 as part of the the Diocese of Chichester, Family Support Work continues to pioneer work that focuses on supporting distressed parents, vulnerable children and young people, seeking to help around 2000 families per year across Sussex through individual support, group work and at the residential centre Knowles Tooth. As an independent charity, work is undertaken on a neutral basis, open to all people.

The disintegration of families, arising from issues of bereavement, illness, imprisonment and relational breakdown is accompanied by many emotional and practical difficulties and volunteers form an integral part of the support to these families. Currently there are in excess of 300 volunteers supporting the work through committees, fundraising, events and support for families. Volunteers provide extra human resources, bring new skills, are a source of fresh ideas and energy and help to forge stronger, broader links in the community. Volunteers do not replace paid staff, rather they support, complement and enhance work with families. To carry out this vital work with families fundraising is needed.

Last year Bishop John asked parishes to make supporting families a key part of parish mission and supporting families to be seen as a Christian obligation.. Each church has a representative, Barbara Mills at St. Mary's and Anne White at St. Nicolas'. There are various fundraising events held throughout the year, please do help to support these. For more information please contact Barbara or Anne.

Contacts

Parish Office: 01273 440202

St Mary's House, St. Mary's Road, Shoreham by Sea, West Sussex

Open: Thurs and Fri 10 am-12 noon
Please note that opening times may vary

Parish Websites:

www.stmarydehaura.org.uk

www.saintnicolas.org.uk

Churchwardens:

St. Mary's
01273 453598
01273 461377

St Nicolas'
01273 454608
01273 382114

Forthcoming Events

ROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC AND SONG

Saturday 4th February at 7.30 pm

St Nicolas' Church, Shoreham by Sea,
West Sussex, BN43 5NH

You are sure to discover some enjoyable new musical experiences in this programme of catchy recorded music, illustrated by slides. Sheets will be provided with information and, where appropriate, the lyrics, so you can follow the story or even sing along if you wish. Refreshments and snacks will be on sale. Places are limited so entry is by free advanced ticket. Donations are requested for the Friends of St Nicolas' to maintain the fabric of this beautiful ancient building. Tickets will be available from 8th January and you can collect them from St Nicolas' Church after Sunday services; you can also reserve them for collection at the door by emailing jandj@simpson.uk.com or by phoning 01273 454006

**Please send copy for the
March issue to Julie Gates
at jagates@gmail.com by
18th February**