

Crawley Deanery News

Connecting Catholic Communities

SUMMER 2025

THE WORD IS LIFE: News from the New Parish

Finance Meeting



On 16th July, the Chief Operating Officer of the diocese, Mrs Sarah Kilmartin met with clergy and the heads of the different finance committees to discuss the new arrangements under the diocesan plan. It was a very positive meeting that answered many concerns from parishioners over different parish financial arrangements. Once the Canonical change has taken place, a new Finance Committee will be formed of one representative from each existing finance committees, a couple of priests plus the Moderator. From that date the existing Financial Committees will be retitled Stewardship Groups.

Prayer Ministry Training by the Arundel and Brighton Charismatic Service of Communion (A&BCDSC)

By Margaret McGettrick (Assistant Coordinator).

On 19th July, sixty people gathered at St. Edward the Confessor Church in Pound Hill, Crawley to attend an introductory session to Prayer Ministry training for those who wished to become prayer ministers. The CDSC is the diocesan team that supports the late

Pope Francis' Charis initiative which promotes Baptism in the Holy Spirit thus awakening charismatic gifts. It is hoped that eventually this Prayer Ministry will be available in every parish after Sunday mass.

Safeguarding is at the centre of this ministry, so the diocesan safeguarding guidelines were comprehensively covered, and all were informed that in order to become authorised as a Prayer Minister they must achieve a Level three Certificate in Safeguarding. The A&B CDSC keeps a record of this ensuring all adhere to diocesan safeguarding guidelines.



Each group in attendance reflected on some key features of prayer ministry including exploring what prayer ministry is, ministering in authority, understanding diocesan safeguarding guidelines and how to incorporate these using three practical exercises to enable experiential learning for all. The day comprised of a combination of praise and worship, Mass, personal testimony, presentations and workshops which proved an inspiring event enjoyed by all participants.

If anyone is interested in becoming a Prayer Minister or in the work of the A&BCDSC please contact Stuart Burnham at dabcdsc@gmail.com

Eucharistic Adoration Team at St John the Evangelist Church, Horsham



By Marcella Nugent.

The team was established in 2019 and currently consists of twenty-three Adorers who each spend a designated hour before the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday between 10:30am - 8pm. Our Adorers keep watch before the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the Altar. To do so is to come before Jesus Christ truly present in the Bread of the Eucharist. I could use this opportunity to repeat the Eucharistic Adoration testimonies of our Saints, however, that is their story. I, instead, have another story to share. It would be world breaking news if Jesus Christ of Nazareth was at St John's Church right now. Helicopters, news outlets, media crews and millions of us would descend to see him and to be in His real presence however it IS world breaking news because he IS here. He is in our Tabernacle and every Tuesday he sets His time aside to wait for us in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Our Almighty Lord is waiting for each one of us to walk through the church doors and

to spend some time with Him. His time is far more precious than ours, yet he waits with endless patience for us to visit Him. His infinite love awaits us, and He expresses pure joy upon the sight of us. All we need to do is push open the church door and He will do the rest. He doesn't send his Angels to assure us of his love - He comes in person. "I am with you always until the end of the age". Mt 28:20. Please consider giving Our Lord just a few moments of your time. Come and visit him on a Tuesday at St John's. He is waiting for you. If you would like to join our Eucharistic Adoration Team, please email the following address: mpnugent@hotmail.co.uk

Corpus Christi, Henfield

Fr Hugh writes:

Fr Hugh celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving in May for his 40th anniversary of Ordination followed by a lunch with and for the parish family and many family and friends.

With Corpus Christi church only seating approx. 100 people, the Rector and Churchwardens of St Peter's Parish church welcomed us for the Mass and joined us afterwards for the celebration lunch.

In June we tackled another major project to resurface the car park, which was failing in many areas. Subsequently the hall boiler failed, and though we did investigate a different source of heat for the hall, we have replaced the boiler with another as the best option financially.

Grandparents' Day will be marked simply with our usual tea / coffee after Mass, the regular thriving, GT group as it's known, meet monthly to bi-monthly on weekdays.

The GT group are taking the lead on raising some funds to install sound boards in the hall which can be very noisy at times.

East Grinstead and St Bernard's Catholic Community, Our Community WhatsApp

By Jordan Devi Taylor.

Our church community uses WhatsApp to aid communication. The 'Communities' feature is incredibly useful to our Church community as not everyone checks Facebook or Instagram every day, and not everyone reads the church newsletter every week, but most people are messaging their friends and family and since January 2025 can now see our community messages. This is an instant way to reach people for last minute notices. We try to use it sparingly, but it has been especially useful when there is a last-minute Mass change or cancellation. Presently, we have an announcements channel and a 'communications' channel. All members have access to the 'announcements' channel, three people only send messages on this channel. Crucially, this allows people to join without worrying about the intrusion of notifications all day as often happens in a large group chat. On the privacy side, your phone number is only visible to the three people who can send messages, people who have saved your number, or those you are in another WhatsApp group with. You can also leave the community at any time with the touch of a button; obstacles to joining and leaving the community are low. The communications channel is a private administrative chat shared by our communications team. You can request to join the group but must be approved before you can see any messages. If discussing something sensitive nobody outside the group can see your message, although caution should be used as to what is shared for confidentiality, privacy and safeguarding reasons, guidance of which is given during approval for use. In the future we would like to grow the number of channels used as people become more familiar with the community features. A new or current parishioner would be able to join the community WhatsApp to receive announcements, see active groups and ministries available and perhaps join in as

a tentative step towards becoming more involved. If you'd like to explore trialling this in your own community, WhatsApp is free to use and has a helpful guide on it's website if you search for 'WhatsApp Communities'.

Hands for Hope

By Anna Cooper; a parishioner of St Gabriel's Church, Billingshurst.

In 2008, Hands for Hope was launched to support the most vulnerable children and their families living in Namuwongo, one of the poorest communities in Kampala, Uganda, where there is no water or electricity and no sanitation. They began by supporting 9 children but now support over 350 children and their families. St Paul's Catholic College



in Burgess Hill has been working with Hands for Hope for many years, and in 2018 took a group of students to volunteer for a couple of weeks. They had a truly special time. This summer a second group of students volunteered again for two weeks, returning home changed in so many ways – I was one of them.

Whilst we were with Hands for Hope, we were keen to get involved in any way needed. This included getting to know and helping to teach the children in the primary school, followed by sharing experiences with students in the senior school. We also had the opportunity to spend some time at Hands for Hope Community Outreach Centre in the centre of Namuwongo community where the children don't require a sponsor and can come in as they please free of charge. We played games, sang songs and helped to serve a hot mug of porridge to every child who came. The children I spoke with were the most friendly and polite children I have ever met, all eager to learn.



My favourite part of our experience in Uganda was getting to know the young people, who have such gratitude for everything in life and such strong friendships; always looking out for one another, picking each other up in the playground and carrying

each other home. Whilst they may be poor in a material sense, they are truly rich in spirit.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported me with my fundraising efforts, so I was able to experience this life changing trip.

To find out more about Hands for Hope please visit <https://www.ugandahandsforhope.org> To watch more testimonies from St Paul's students who also went to Uganda visit 'St Paul's Catholic' on Instagram.

Horsham - New Kitchen



Horsham parish have updated their parish hall kitchen to the latest commercial standards. This will make the venue more attractive to hirers and make better provision for parish / diocesan events.

To submit news and events from your parish for possible inclusion in future editions, then email Kathy Bishop at: kimmbishop@yahoo.co.uk by 20th October 2025.

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