

Crawley Deanery News

Connecting Catholic Communities

AUTUMN & WINTER 2025 - 26

THE WORD IS LIFE: News from the New Parish (to be)

News

I apologise for the late arrival of this newsletter. Events in the diocese have rather overridden us. We keep in our prayers Bishop (now Archbishop) Richard who was installed as the new Archbishop of Westminster on Saturday 14th February. This obviously leaves us in a vacuum while we await the new appointment of a new bishop for Arundel & Brighton (our sixth, since the creation of diocese in 1965). How these events will affect our Deanery/amalgamated parish plans remain to be seen. Hopefully we will have more details in the next newsletter. (Canon Tim)

Soup for Sudan

The St. Vincent de Paul Society have elected to support the SVP work in South Sudan for the past few years as the need is so longstanding and, on a scale, not always appreciated in the West. For the 4 weeks before Christmas, Horsham SVP Conference again held Soup Lunches in the church hall of St. John's in Horsham. We offered a range of homemade soups made by members of the Conference, often served with homemade bread, cheese, fruit and some cake. The lunches have become a part of the fabric of parish life as they allow parish members to sit and chat as they savour excellent soups. SVP members provide transport for some of our VIPs to enable them to enjoy the food, the company and being included in the community. This can be a simple lift in a car or a more challenging bus trip for a wheelchair user. While most of the attendees are parish members, there are also regulars from the wider community for whom these lunches have become significant.



The SVP appreciate hugely the involvement of pupils from the two parish primary schools. Obviously, they cannot carry hot soup and drinks but can take orders, fulfilled by adult volunteers. The children served bread, cheese, fruit etc and we are delighted that they are so happy to be involved and to participate in putting faith into action. Their involvement inspired them to raise further funds for the SVP. Last summer St. Roberts organised a tea for the SVP and VIPs for which they baked, made sandwiches, sang a concert and hosted a memorable game of bingo.

There was no charge for the soup lunches, but guests were invited to make donations if they were able. These Advent lunches raised over £1800. This supports the work of the South Sudan SVP in many ways such as the SVP's feeding programme which reaches over 700 infants each week through locally sourced nutrient-rich food. The 'Be In Hope' children's home provides housing for nearly 30 homeless boys. The St. Vincent Healthcare Centre offers free medical appointments meaning children and pregnant women do not have to travel long distances or go without care. In addition, there is the Vocational Training Centre which provides hope and practical skills to the unemployed. Students are trained in various courses ranging from nursing, mechanics and tailoring. The effects of climate change and the knock-on effect of the conflict in Sudan combine to make life in South Sudan, currently classed as the poorest country in the world, extremely challenging. We are privileged to be able to make a contribution to help in difficult circumstances for some in South Sudan.

Welcome to the Clergy Team



**Deacon
Dominic
Dring**

Corpus Christi Church

Tanyard, Henfield. West Sussex. BN5 9PE

"You might know my brother"..... It's how many introductory conversations have gone in recent years, but I have my own story. In fact, for many years prior it was the other way around. But, "blessed are the meek" and so, yes, I'm Fr. Kevin Dring's (older!) brother.

I was born in Brighton, have a beautiful wife - Helen, and we have 3 adult children.

Ordained to the Permanent Diaconate in 2020, I continued working in HMP Lewes and HMP Ford as a prison chaplain. The last 7 years I have been in prison chaplaincy, and 12 years in school chaplaincy before that.

My passion and my work has always been in service of the 'outsider'. After working in educational film production in Ghana through VSO, I qualified as Social Worker. I worked in various social work settings including youth work, youth justice, family social work, drug and alcohol recovery and mental health services. I went on to establish and manage the Emmaus Community in Brighton.

During most of this time I was active in parish ministries - in catechesis and music ministry in particular.

Today I am excited about the opportunities that the Pastoral Plan and the development of new communities of faith in our Diocese offer. I am hopeful that many people will step up, with confidence and enthusiasm, to respond to the needs of Church and society – that we might all be lights in

the darkness and ambassadors of hope and the joy of the Gospel.

I have a passion and experience in training and facilitating groups and communities to hold heart/Spirit-led processes of communication - effectively good synodal meeting. I have worked with this process in family groups, catechetical groups, bereavement groups, men's groups, groups of prisoners, prison staff and at the Ministry of Justice. I am in communication with The Diocese about this and would be very keen to offer support enabling our 'big' Parish to be a beacon of 'real' synodal communication, visioning and decision-making.

My vision would be that all meetings are conducted, at least in part, in a particular style/process. This would, over time, transform the culture of communication and community.



**Fr. Anthony
Zabbey**

St. Francis and St. Anthony Church

Haslett Avenue West, Crawley,
West Sussex. RH10 1HR

The Prior, Fr. Joachim welcomed Fr. Anthony Zabbey OSA to the Augustinian Community at the Friary in Crawley Parish.

Fr. Anthony was born in Bodo, a little coastal town in Rivers State in the southern part of Nigeria. He studied in the major seminaries in Makurdi and Jos, both in Nigeria, and made his solemn profession of vows on 13th November 2004. He was ordained a priest on 10th September 2005. Upon the completion of his further studies in Rome, Fr. Anthony has taught philosophy in Jos and Makurdi. He has an avid interest in chess, football, and novels.

Polish Mass at St. John's

31st August was a joyful day for Horsham Parish and especially for members of the Polish Community, as we marked the 75th Anniversary of their presence at St. John's. To mark the occasion, an image of the Divine Mercy was erected to a permanent position in the Lady Chapel, and solemnly blessed by parish priest of our local Polish Mission, Fr. Wojciech Piotrowski.

Kasia Bojarska writes: "The Polish community of Horsham Parish would like to express our deepest gratitude to Fr. Tristan Cranfield for his kindness, support, and generous hospitality towards our community. This sacred image was unveiled and solemnly blessed on date of great significance for us (our anniversary) as well as the feast of Our Lady of Częstochowa, our beloved Patroness. We are profoundly moved by Fr. Tristan's warm welcome and his willingness to embrace and support us. This gesture has not only strengthened the bond between our communities but has also given us a lasting spiritual home within the parish. We will remain forever grateful and keep Fr. Tristan and the entire parish in our prayers, asking for abundant blessings from Jesus through Mary, our Heavenly Mother."

Mass in Polish is celebrated at St. John's every Sunday at 1.45pm.



The priest in the blue vestment is Fr. Wojciech Nowak, a visiting priest from Rome.

Pilgrimage to Greece in the Footsteps of St. Paul in October 2025 by Teresita Chandler

On 3rd October 2025, Father Alban Aguezeala, accompanied by Father Francis Ezennia, MSP, led 13 pilgrims to Athens for an 8-day tour across Greece in the footsteps of St. Paul. Arriving late, there was just time to check in at the hotel



and have dinner before retiring for the night. On the following day we were taken to the archaeological site of ancient Corinth where St. Paul preached to the Corinthians. Here we celebrated our first Mass.

On the 3rd day, we visited the Church of St. Dionysius the Areopagite, an early Christian convert of St. Paul; the Holy Church of Lykodemos Sotira (Russian Church) - the largest medieval church of Athens and one of the most important Byzantine monuments of the 11th century; and the Church of Panagia Kapnikarea, one of the oldest and most significant Christian churches in Athens dating back to the 11th century and dedicated to the Virgin Mary. Our final stop was Father Alban's former parish church, St. Theresa's Church Kypseli, Athens for Mass. We were privileged to have the Archbishop of Athens, His Grace Theodoros Konditis as the Chief celebrant. After Mass we were treated to hot drinks and snacks by the Nigerian congregation.

On the 4th day we left Athens and travelled north to visit the archaeological site and museum of Delphi. In the 6th century BC Delphi was the religious centre and symbol of unity of the ancient Greek world. Continuing our journey north, we headed towards Kalambaka to visit the Meteora Monasteries. In a region of almost inaccessible sandstone peaks, monks settled on these 'columns of the sky' from the 11th century onwards.

Along the way we stopped at an icon factory owned by a priest and his family, where we were able to see the family at work.

From Kalambaka we went to Vergina, the ancient first capital of the Kingdom of Macedonia, to visit

the museum which houses the shield and armour of King Philip II, father of Alexander the Great. Finally we stopped in Veria for an open-air Mass. According to historical resources, St. Paul visited Veria at least twice between 50 AD and 57 AD in order to teach the life of Jesus to the people of the region.

The next day we travelled to Philippi where St. Paul the Apostle gave his first sermon and established the first church in Europe.



Also, it is the site where St. Paul baptised a woman named Lydia, the first convert to Christianity in Europe. We had Mass here.

After Mass we went to the archaeological site of Philippi where St. Paul and Silas were imprisoned.

Our final destination was Thessaloniki where we visited the Church of St. Demetrius, the Church of Panagia, the church of the Prophet Isaiah, and finally the Rotunda of St. George. Originally built as a mausoleum for Emperor Galerius, it was later converted into a Christian church and is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Advent Taizé Service at Corpus Christi, Henfield

This Taizé service was organised by Deacon Dominic Dring with parishioners at Corpus Christi Church, Henfield who gathered on 7th December for prayerful singing of Taizé chants. The Church lit with candlelight shed Christ's Peace and Love on all in attendance. Deacon Dominic organised a slide presentation with pictures and words those present could follow. It was a community effort with Claire O'Brien on flute, Brian McDonogh on guitar, Tracey Stanbridge on keyboard and Liz Burtenshaw on flute with a small group of singers to lead the singing. 45 attended including others from other Christian Churches in Henfield and Horsham and 4 young people. So, not only was it ecumenical in nature but it was enjoyed by different generations. Watch out for news of further Taizé services at Corpus Christi, Henfield



To submit news and events from your parish for possible inclusion in future editions, then email Kathy Bishop at: kimmbishop@yahoo.co.uk by 25th Mar 2026.

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