

# **CORNERSTONE MAGAZINE**

**June - July 2018**

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## Keeping in Touch

Without a doubt our main means of communication has moved away from letter-writing to the telephone, email or social media, although perhaps the last of these is used by the younger generation more than the other two. Then, to be sure that we do not miss a telephone communication we may well have an answering machine or similar system, but what about this aid to communication?

Our initial experience with this system may "turn us off". When asked to leave a message "after you hear the beep" we may hang up rather than talk to a machine. However those with this system are really saying "It is not possible for me to sit here and wait for your call, and I know that it can be difficult for you and others to contact me, so instead of your calling my number over and over without an answer – and becoming frustrated by it all – just let me know that you want to get in touch by leaving a message. I will then call you back because I am grateful that you thought of me and, like you, I want to make a connection."

All of which reminds us of another "connection" that is far more important than the telephone, namely making a "connection" with God – talking to him in humble, fervent prayer. With Him we never get an engaged tone or an answerphone message, and we never have to think about whether He is available. We know that He is. "Before they call", He says, "I will answer; while they are speaking I will hear." *Isaiah 65:24*. The line is always open to Him. Just think of it, anytime – day or night – we can talk to Him about anything! "What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!"

Are we faithfully calling upon the Lord? He bids us, "**Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know.**" *Jeremiah 33:3*.

Then, too, are we always available when the Lord wants to talk to us, or does he get either an engaged tone or no answer at all? The means by which the Lord talks to us is through his holy, precious, sacred, saving Word. Are we available to Him or are we too busy to listen to Him?

Regarding our Saviour, our Heavenly Father declares: "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!" *Matthew 17:5*. Let us faithfully listen to him in worship on Sundays and other days, and let us faithfully listen to Him in our daily devotions.

The following has been sent in by Robert Field, in Saltwood Nursing Home, having dictated it to his daughter. Robert celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 18<sup>th</sup> May.

(He did give permission for it to be "edited", as the original was somewhat longer than as here. However the final paragraph is unchanged.)

## **THE ASCENSION**

We left the last paper at the Crucifixion and I'll take it up from when Jesus finally expired by calling out those heart rending words "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" and at that point not just his body died but the inner "he". At that point the debt had not been fully paid. Later on Saturday the bodies had to be removed because the following day was a special church festival. A man named Joseph of Arimathea asked if he could take Jesus' body and put it in a tomb that he had prepared for his own use when his time came. This tomb had not been used for anything else, so the body was taken and laid on a stone slab, and you can be sure that there were a number of soldiers there to make sure there was no funny business. They rolled a huge rock to the entrance and adequately sealed it. Then, as a final precaution, they posted a sentry on each side of the rock, to make sure that nobody could take the body away.

Mary had been told that her son was going to rise on Sunday, the third day, so she went to the tomb to give her last farewells. To her utter amazement the rock had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. She turned in a daze and saw a man coming towards her, who she took to be one of the gardeners. She said to him "They have taken my Lord away and I know not where they have laid him". She probably added "do you know anything about it and can you give me any information?" He looked at her and said in a gentle, familiar way, "Mary". That voice had intonation. This was no gardener. This was her son. She knelt down and said "Master". Her son had indeed risen and was walking about. She wanted to embrace him, of course, but he drew away and said "do not touch me. I have not yet gone to my Father". In other words he was a ghost. Nowadays we say a 'spirit', and it was part of the Holy Trinity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost or God the Holy Spirit. He asked her to go into town and tell anybody she met what she had seen, that Jesus was alive and walking about.

She saw her son's old friends and disciples, including Peter, and told them but they could not take it in. They hurried to the tomb and saw that it was so. There was no sign of the body, just the funeral clothes neatly folded at one end of the stone slab and, at the other end, the cloth usually put round the head of the body. There was no doubt that Christ had risen.

There was great rejoicing and all Jesus' friends met in the upper room. They prepared a table with simple refreshments to celebrate. Nowadays we would have crisps and peanuts and perhaps some sandwiches, but then it was probably bread of some sort, maybe some fish and of course some

wine. Wine was used a lot then because it was purer than their natural water. Then, quite suddenly, Jesus was amongst them. He went up to the table, held his hands out, gave thanks for the food and blessed it. Just like the old days. This was quite definitely Jesus.

Thomas, one of his closest friends, was not there at the time but heard about it and could not take it in. He said that this was an imposter, probably with a good intention, giving the impression that the resurrection had arrived. The disciples persuaded him to come to their next little gathering in the upper room, which they had arranged for the following day. Jesus appeared but Thomas still could not accept that it was Jesus. He said "no, you are not the real thing. Unless I see the wounds in your hands and unless I can feel around that sword wound in your side I can't believe". The wounds would still have been very ugly and prominent. Jesus held out his hands and there were the wounds but they could have been self-inflicted. Then Thomas felt around that terrible hole in Jesus' side and all doubt disappeared. No one could imitate such a wound and live. Thomas knelt before Him and said "my Lord and my Master". Jesus replied "blessed are those who see and believe, and even more blessed are those who don't see and yet can believe".

Jesus went about, revealing himself to as many people as would listen to him to show that he had truly risen again. He went on until the time came for his ascension, and that in itself was spectacular. They all gathered there and Jesus was amongst them, talking about resurrection and ascension, when suddenly he began rising, without any support, and he got faster, went higher and higher, until he finally disappeared out of sight. What really happened, he passed through a time barrier. He got out of our earthly time control into eternity where everything's instantaneous and spontaneous. Peter, or it may have been the voice of God, spoke to them and chided them for being so surprised, and everybody was amazed because whatever language was theirs, they could hear and understand what was being said.

Well, that was really the story I had to tell. Again, I would say that it was based on what is written in the Bible, but I've added some of my own remarks. They represent my own beliefs. You may or may not accept them but they are my beliefs. You might have your own interpretation of events. Well, that is fine. However, God looks for a motive behind actions. You can do something that possibly appears to be wrong, but if your motive is good then that is alright with God. So, there we are and I hope, if God is willing, that I shall soon be able to write, or dictate to my daughter, about the Christmas story. The actual arrival of Jesus on this earth and something which has always caused a bit of trouble understanding, even to some Ministers, the virgin birth. I'd like to give you my own thoughts on that because that was one of the things that caused Gwen and I to leave that church. Anyhow, I'll mention all that in that paper.

God bless you all, Amen

## 'Loaves and Fishes' Lunch Club

It is hoped to get our lunch club for children and parents up and running for the summer holidays, in all probability on a Wednesday. The suggestion is that we run it in three 'teams' so that each team would only be asked to commit to two Wednesdays out of the six, and we have approached Uckfield Baptist Church to see if they would be prepared to provide one of those teams. That would mean that we would only need to call on six to eight people from our own congregation to prepare the meals, with possibly one or two others each time to help with laying tables and clearing away.

Amanda is quite keen to provide some activities for children either before or after the meal, and it may be possible to provide alternative activities on the Wednesdays on which she is unavailable. Obviously, as Amanda will not be back from her sabbatical until the beginning of July, we need to have all our plans in place by that time.

So far, we do not have sufficient volunteers to man our 'share' of this commitment, and we would not want anybody to have to be asked to do more than two weeks of the six. We need to get on with our plans for this very worthwhile undertaking, **so if you think you could help in ANY way please do speak to Teresa or Sonia as soon as possible.**

**Thank you.**



**I am concerned. Who should I tell?**

For safeguarding issues relating to children, tell Linda Hallett.

For safeguarding issues relating to adults, tell Clare Warren.

For premises issues, or health and safety, tell a trustee (ideally in writing/email).

Someone in the church needs prayer or other help: Ask them if you can let their pastoral visitor know.

## Diary Dates for June and July 2018

### June

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am-4pm Plant sale at Little Coombe, Belmont Road  
10-12pm **Fairtrade coffee morning** at The Source

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: Mrs Pat Oakley**  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 7.00pm Cornerstone Annual Meeting

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship (HC): Rev David Hague**  
15<sup>th</sup> 6.30-9pm Albatross the Film at Brighthelm, Brighton

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: Mrs Hazel Brown**  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Presentation re refugees in Greece

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: Rev David Hague**

### July

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: Mrs Pat Oakley**  
Church picnic and walk in Ashdown Forest  
Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 10-12pm **Fairtrade coffee morning** at The Source

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship (HC): Rev Amanda Roper**  
Bring & share lunch - celebrate Amanda's return  
11<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm Ashdown Singers concert at Cornerstone

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: Mr David Crowther**

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: tba**

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: Mr David Crowther**

## What are you doing in June and July?

**Communion:** 10<sup>th</sup> June - **Trustee** – John Harriyott

8<sup>th</sup> July - **Trustee** – Doug Scott

### Trustee

### Welcomers

#### **'Door'**

#### **'Inside'**

**3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE**

10<sup>th</sup>

17<sup>th</sup>

24<sup>th</sup>

Clare Warren  
Jeremy Hallett  
John Harriyott  
Norman Wood

John Lane  
Bernard Cook  
Lynne Coates  
Christine House

Teresa Lane  
Hazel Cook  
Christine House  
Carole Marchant

**1<sup>st</sup> JULY**

8<sup>th</sup>

15<sup>th</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup>

29<sup>th</sup>

Doug Scott  
Clare Warren  
Norman Wood  
Jeremy Hallett  
John Harriyott

Clare Warren  
Doug Scott  
Coretha McCreery  
Hazel Cook  
Teresa Lane

Wendy Twigg  
Sylvia Scott  
Lynne Coates  
Bernard Cook  
John Lane

### Readers

### Coffee

**3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE**

10<sup>th</sup>

17<sup>th</sup>

24<sup>th</sup>

Clare Warren  
Sonia Harriyott  
John Lane  
Doug Scott

Kathy Weller  
Christine House  
Teresa Lane  
Anita Smith

Bernard/Hazel Cook  
John/Sonia Harriyott  
Teresa Lane  
Christine House

**1<sup>st</sup> JULY**

8<sup>th</sup>

15<sup>th</sup>

22<sup>nd</sup>

29<sup>th</sup>

Derek Thorogood  
Sheila Warner  
Coretha McCreery  
Norman Wood  
Bernard Cook

James Walton  
Clare Warren  
Kathy Weller  
Lynne Coates  
Chris Evans

Carole Marchant  
Sylvia Scott  
Coretha McCreery  
Clare Warren  
Kathy Weller

## SIR NIKOLAUS PEVSNER

Not a musician this time. Pevsner was a writer about architecture. He was born in 1902 in Leipzig and came to England with his family in 1933, when Nazi law made it impossible for him to stay on as a lecturer at Göttingen University. (His father was a Russian Jew). A subject he had taught at Göttingen was English Art and Architecture. Once in UK, he was awarded a research fellowship at Birmingham University. He studied industrial design, and championed "modern" building design.

In 1940, they interned Pevsner as an alien, but released him only three months later. He was set to clearing bomb sites. During internment he began to write a book, which PENGUIN published, *An Outline of European Architecture*. It sold half a million copies. In 1945, Penguin took up his suggestion of producing a series of *Guides to the Buildings of England*. This was a county-by-county account of the notable buildings in the land, and ran to over 40 volumes, 32 of which Pevsner wrote himself. It became the "Who's who" of English architecture, which Pevsner hoped would help those who loved to walk in, and look round, our towns. The "Times" called it "*the greatest treasury of English architecture ever compiled*".

After the war, Pevsner gave radio talks, including the 1955 Reith Lectures and he shared in John Betjeman's campaign to save Victorian buildings. He took British citizenship in 1953, was made a CBE ten years later, and was knighted "for services to art and architecture". He died in 1983.

Since the turn of the century, Yale University Press has completely revised and published an enlarged edition of Pevsner's *Guides*. They engaged a new author, Nicholas Antram (1957-2012). Antram was a graduate of the University of East Anglia, specialising in Victorian architecture. He had worked for English Heritage and the National Trust. In this new edition, CORNERSTONE gets a mention. I remember Antram coming to look at our church. I think it was in the days when we regularly opened the doors to the public on a Tuesday morning. This is what he wrote about us: UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, High Street, New Town. Built as the Congregational Church in 1866. The designer was *J.L.Parsons* of Lewes. Imposingly sited above the road, stone, Gothic, with attenuated lancets. Symmetrical gabled front, a trio of lancets over a blind arcade, squeezed in between buttresses and flanked by gabled porches. The adjoining HALL, with a stone front but otherwise brick, was added in 1892.

The whole entry for Uckfield town runs to four pages, and includes notes on features of many of the town's buildings that were new to me. For example, I did not know that there is another building in the High Street as old as BRIDGE COTTAGE. Here is what Antram says about it:

Behind the unpromising frontage of Nos. 124-126 is one of Uckfield's earlier survivals, a C15 hall house. Some timber framing and an oriel window are visible behind in Olive's Yard.

The *Guide* opens our eyes to the various, and often delightful, architecture of our County. If you have the time, go to an East Sussex town on a fine

Summer day, and look around at your leisure, wandering the streets with the book in your hands. I borrowed a copy from the Uckfield Library to write this piece. (Our Library itself - the old Uckfield Town Hall - gets a mention in the book). They had to order a copy for me from Lewes, but it was worth the wait. Its full title is:

The Buildings of England  
Sussex: East with Brighton and Hove  
Nicholas Antram and Nikolaus Pevsner

I thank *Wikipedia* for the biographical stuff about Pevsner.

DJT

### IN REMEMBRANCE

Charles (Dick) Turpin	2nd June 1989
Hilda Edwards	2nd June 2006
Audrey Albon	15th June 2010
Phyllis Ansell	22nd June 2002
Emily Brown	26th June 2003
Iseabel Ralston	28th June 1994
Jean Leng	28th June 1998
John Henderson	June 1996
Ann Reid	11th July 1997
Helen Pelling	July 2016
Pat Fagg	21st July 2017

**We remember them with gratitude and give thanks to God for them – and for all those who worked and worshipped with us.**

## PLANT SALE

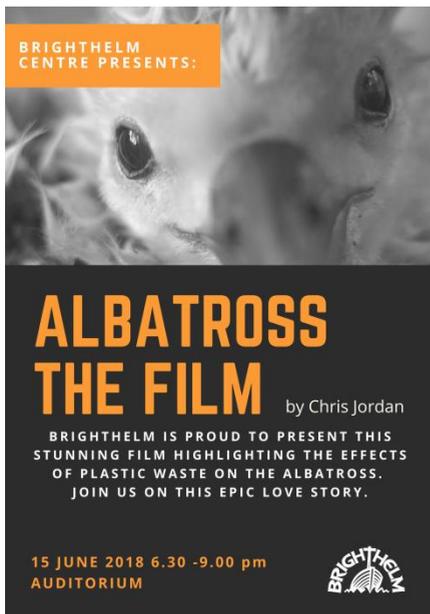
in aid of Kent, Surrey and Sussex Air Ambulance

**Saturday 2nd June from 9:00am to 4:00pm**

Belmont Road. This is the home of Sue and adjacent to the top right hand corner of Get all your needs for the summer garden for a worthy cause.



at Little Coombe,  
Norman Wood,  
Luxford Field Car Park.  
whilst raising money



John and Teresa Lane are going to Brighthelm, Brighton, to see this wonderful, illuminating film (with a plentiful supply of tissues!) on 15<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30pm, and would be delighted if others would like to go as well. There is **no charge at all**, and up to three spaces are available in their car, plus any others who may like to go.

Please have a word with John or Teresa about this – it would be great if we could get up a party.

## UCKFIELD FESTIVAL CONCERT

As part of the Uckfield Festival, the **Ashdown Singers** are giving a concert at **Cornerstone** at **8:00pm on 11th July**. They will focus on music from the Great War era. It will include Elgar's "From the Bavarian Highlands", a collection of lively dance songs. Also the Singers will perform some contemporary settings of popular songs of the time. There may even be an opportunity for audience participation. Tickets are £8 if purchased in advance or £10 on the door. These are available from Norman Wood.

**The Hall and/or the Meeting Room are used by the following regular groups:**

Alex (private booking):	Fridays – 7.00-8.00pm
Baby and Toddler group:	Wednesdays – 10.00-11.30am (Wendy Mayhew: 07969 638280 and Linda Allen: 07411 570070)
Circuit training group:	Tuesdays – 8.00-9.00pm
Karate Youth:	Wednesdays - 5.30-6.30pm
Mini-Motion:	Thursdays – 9.00-10.30am
Social Services:	Wednesdays - 7.00-9.00pm Sundays - 5.00-9.30pm
Uckfield Photographic Society:	First <b>and</b> third Thursdays – 7.30-10.00pm