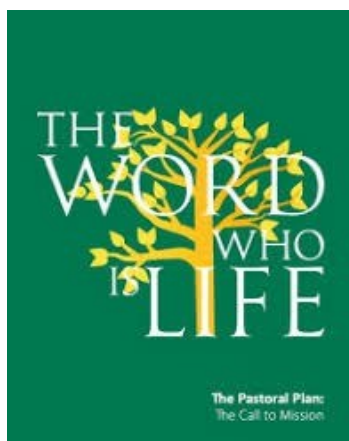


Crawley Deanery News

Connecting Catholic Communities

WINTER 2024-25

THE WORD WHO IS LIFE: Introducing the New Parish



The Shape of Deaneries & Parishes

Christ Jesus calls us to mission in exciting and also challenging times for the Church. Christian values are not as embedded in society as was once the case. However, we are in the midst of a renewal – not an era of change, but a change of era. As society becomes more secular, our parish communities must be ever-clearer beacons of light, guiding people to Christ. We are in a new era of apostolic mission. The mission given us by the Lord calls us to move to new ways of doing things. This mission must be the measure of all we do, and it requires us to look outward, in the work of evangelisation. The principal role of the priest is the preaching of the Word, the celebration of the sacraments and the pastoral care of the people placed in his charge. We must enable the priests of the Diocese to be free to carry out these prime responsibilities of their vocation. The many employees and volunteers in our parish communities play an important part in the mission, and the future will see the development of existing and new roles. During the coming months we shall take the steps necessary for the groups of churches that currently form eleven deaneries, to become eleven parishes. This is a radical step, but it will give us the flexibility to respond to current challenges in a way that is resilient, sustainable and adaptable. Change is never easy. There can be sadness along the way, but we shall find new life in our response to the call of Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The team of priests living across this wider community will be able to cooperate more closely, serving the sacramental needs of the communities

concerned in a flexible way - and be freed to bring their gifts to the service of the Church in mission. The role of Dean will be replaced with a priest who serves as Moderator. We already have experience of 'moderated teams' of priests, but for many this will be a new direction for parish ministry. We are moving to a time when, as never before, lay faithful, deacons, religious and priests – are all working together for the building up of the Kingdom

INTRODUCING OUR NEW MODERATOR ELECT

The Role of the Moderator

Canon Tim Madeley in the role of moderator will be the priest who leads other priests of the Deanery to become a moderated team. The moderator directs the joint action of the priests and is responsible for answering to the Bishop for that action. The role of moderator is part of the Diocese's Pastoral Plan which aims to create a new structure of parishes. The plan also includes identifying local priorities for prayer, formation and mission.



Canon Tim Madeley Moderator Elect, Rector & Parish Priest

St Gabriel's Parish

18 East Street, Billingshurst,
West Sussex. RH14 9QH

The Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation

Park Lane, West Grinstead, West Sussex. RH13 8LT

Canon Tim was born in Brighton and was educated in the diocesan Catholic schools' system in Lewes, Horsham, Ifield and Crawley. In 1987 he began studies for the priesthood at St John's Seminary, Wonersh and was ordained to the diaconate in 1993. After pastoral experience in St Joseph's, Redhill, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1994

by Bishop (later Cardinal) Cormac Murphy-O'Connor and was appointed immediately to the Parish of Our Lady of Ransom & St Gregory, Eastbourne. After four and a half years, he was transferred to Crawley Parish. During his seven years here, among a team of four priests, he oversaw the amalgamation of the four town parishes into one. In 2005, Canon Tim was appointed as Dean of Arundel Cathedral. In early 2008, he was installed as a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter. In 2009, He was invested as a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem; ten years later he was raised in rank to Knight Commander. In 2012, Canon Tim was elected to the Old Brotherhood of the English Secular Clergy, a group of 24 priests from around England and Wales whose heritage goes back 400 years. During his fourteen years at Arundel, Canon Tim oversaw the replacement of the cathedral spire and the substantial renovation and extension of the Cathedral Centre. In 2019, Canon Tim had a sabbatical year and was sent to Oxford to study Church history. In the autumn of 2020, Canon Tim was appointed Parish Priest of St Gabriel's, Billingshurst and then in January 2021, Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation & St. Francis at West Grinstead.



Fr Tristan Cranfield
Parish Priest

St John the Evangelist Church

3, Springfield Road, Horsham,
West Sussex. RH12 2PJ

Fr Tristan is parish priest of St John the Evangelist, Horsham, where he arrived in August 2024. Before that, he was a member of the moderated clergy team in Guildford Parish, from February 2022. He served previously for three years in the parish of Eastbourne. He is now the Vocations Director for the Diocese and a member of the Council of Priests. Born in Shoreham, he grew up in and around Arundel, attending local Catholic schools, and served as an altar boy and chorister at the Cathedral. He studied Arabic and French at Oxford University and lived abroad for several years in the Middle East. Before becoming a priest, he was a translator, mainly working with Arabic literature, but also spent some time working as a PA in a law firm and teaching English as a foreign language in Turkey, India and London. He was sent to Rome to train for the priesthood at the Venerable English College from 2011-2018, before being ordained back in Arundel.



Fr Xavier Amirdasmay
(in residence)
Horsham

Fr Xavier was born in 1960 in Perambalur, a prominent town in the heart of Tamil Nadu, South India. Following the early death of his father, he was taken in by his priest-uncle, who inspired him with his holy example and helped him continue his education. His Uncle's guidance led him to the seminary, and he was ordained a priest in 1987. After serving as an assistant in two parishes, Fr Xavier was appointed Director of Social Ministry in the Diocese of Kumbakonam. Following his six-year term, he moved to the regional office to assist with the Bishop's Conference of Tamil Nadu for twelve years. He later returned to parish ministry and is now gratefully on sabbatical in Horsham, where Bishop Richard and the parishioners have been a tremendous blessing to him during this time of spiritual renewal.



Fr Hugh Flower
Parish Priest

Corpus Christi Church

Tanyard, Henfield. West Sussex. BN5 9PE

Allegedly, the Festival of Britain was held to mark my birth! Schooling took place in Canterbury and for 10 years in Brighton; after which a career in horticulture began, in what was a leading local authority, in Brighton Park's Dept. Subsequent education has been at Merrist Wood College for a year's study in amenity horticulture, and after 3 more years practical work, a further 3 years at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, where I graduated with the Kew Diploma at Credit level. Three years followed working as Estates Manager in north London for the NHS. Bishop Cormac accepted me for studies for the priesthood and after 5/6 years I was ordained in 1985. Appointments followed to Woking and Epsom parishes as assistant priest, then followed 16 years as RC Chaplain to High Down and Downview prisons, coupled with 12 years as Parish Priest of St Teresa's, Merstham and later to the Church of the Holy Spirit, Fetcham. From there to St Cuthbert's Parish, Egham and for the last 6 years, at Henfield. For 14 years, I've been a chaplain to Surrey Police and for about 4 years also helping Sussex Police.



Deacon Paul Russell (Henfield)

It was in 1998 that I said to my wife, bad-temperedly, that "if the Lord wants me to be a deacon he can get Fr Michael to ask me, can't he?" And it was just a day or two later, quite out of the blue (and, he assured me, unprompted other than by the Holy Spirit) that Fr Michael popped the question. Now, having given my life over to the Lord in university days, there could be no answer to that other than a still reluctant 'yes'! And so it was that I became ordained deacon in Birmingham Cathedral in 2001, though not before one or two further tantrums along the way. My fear, for that is what it was, had been eased a little, during a final retreat before ordination, by a randomly-selected piece of paper (still attached to my computer) which quotes from Isaiah: "Do not be afraid, for I am with you, for I am your God". And He has, of course, been true to His word, at every moment of my very varied diaconal ministry. It was in 2016 that the Lord brought us to Henfield and to the beautiful parish community of Corpus Christi. Our four married children are all within reach, and their 14 children between them ensures a steady stream of opportunities for grandparental support.



Fr Jack Lusted Parish Priest

Our Lady and St Peter's Church
London Road, East Grinstead. Surrey. RH19 1YE
St Bernard's Church
Vicarage Road, Lingfield, Surrey. RH7 6EZ

Fr Jack says he is a man of Sussex through and through being born in Eastbourne and raised in Hailsham. He attended school in that town and then went to Brighton to study physics at the University of Sussex. After university, he trained as a physics teacher and taught at Littlehampton before changing career to work in telecommunications. At this time he was persuaded to test his vocation to the (Anglican) priesthood, and so in 1990 was sent to Oxford for his Anglican formation. After ordination he served as a curate in Moulsecombe (Brighton) and then at Southwick. During this time, he met Sarah and soon got married. He then

became rector of Lodsworth, Lurgashall and Selham – a group of rural parishes in West Sussex, and after 10 years, vicar of Salehurst (Robertsbridge) in East Sussex. He and his family were received into the Catholic Church almost 10 years ago, and after a good year of discernment he underwent formation at St John's Seminary, Wonersh. He has been parish priest of East Grinstead with Lingfield for 5 years.



Fr Paul Fleetwood OSB Parish Priest

Abbey of Our Lady, Help of Christians (Worth Abbey)

Paddockhurst Road, Turners Hill, Worth,
West Sussex . RH10 4SB

Fr Paul was born in North Yorkshire on the kitchen table of a farm where there was no electricity but many fleas. This had a profound effect on his vocation. He went to the Benedictine School of Belmont Abbey, near Hereford. The school excelled at rugby and rowing, at which Fr Paul did not. He spent his school career studying Latin and Greek and practicing music, in groups of one. At university he studied Classics, and Anglo Saxon and Old Norse. He is currently seeking a pen pal. He then joined the Novitiate at Worth Abbey (fifty years ago), having been attracted to the Lay Community and the mission in Peru. He studied with the Jesuits at Heythrop College, especially enjoying Scriptural Studies. He was ordained in 1979 with two companions, Fr James and Fr Alex. He then worked in the local parish and the classroom. (The less said about the latter, the better.) He then escaped to Lima, Peru, working in a very large and poor parish on the outskirts of the city for six years. Returning to England, and longing for Latin America, he escaped again to Brazil, to a small Benedictine community. On his return he found work in the chaplaincy of the Immigration Removal Centre at Gatwick Airport for fifteen years, before he was made parish priest at Worth, where he is still tolerated by generous parishioners.

The other clergy of the Deanery will be covered in the Spring 2025 edition of the Crawley Deanery News.

To submit news and events from your parish for possible inclusion in future editions email Kathy Bishop at: kjmbishop@yahoo.co.uk by 31st March 2025.



Fr Alban Aguezeala Parish Priest

Church of the English Martyrs

4 Vicarage Lane, Horley,
Surrey. RH6 8AR

Fr. Alban was born and raised in Nigeria. He is the fourth child of the nine children of the late Ichie Raymond and Justina Aguezeala of Aboh Ozara, Our West LGA Imo State, Nigeria. Fr. Alban's journey to the Priesthood started after his primary education at Aboh Primary School Ozara when he was admitted to the Holy Ghost Juniorate, Ihiala. His secondary education was followed by Spiritual Year Formation at Custos Ecclesiae Seminary Uzii.

He did his philosophical and theological studies at Seat of Wisdom Major Seminary, Owerri from (1994-2003). He was ordained a Priest on the 29th of November 2003. Following his ordination, Fr. Alban worked in various capacities in his diocese (Orlu) as the Vice-Rector of Bonus Pastor Seminary, Osina (2003-2007) and Parish Priest, St. Peter's Parish Amorka from (2007-2012).

In 2012, Fr. Alban moved to Copenhagen, Denmark to serve as an Assistant Priest at Sacred Heart Church, Copenhagen. His ministry in Copenhagen was however brief as he shortly moved to Athens, Greece to serve as the Chaplain of the English-speaking Community of St. Therese's Church, Athens. He also served as the Roman Catholic Chaplain of the Minidi Detention Camp, Athens.

In December 2017, Fr. Alban moved to England to the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton and was consequently appointed the Parochial Administrator of St. Ann's Banstead. He later moved to serve as an Assistant Priest of St. John the Evangelist, Horsham. In 2020, Fr. Alban moved to Selsey to serve as the Parochial Administrator of St. Wilfrid's, Selsey. In June 2021, Fr. Alban was appointed as the Parish Priest of English Martyrs, Horley as well as the Roman Catholic Chaplain at East Surrey Hospital, Redhill.

Fr. Alban holds: Bachelor's degrees in philosophy and theology (Pontifical Urban University, Rome), MA. International Relations (University of Indianapolis, US) MSc. Southeast European Studies (University of Athens, Greece) and Postgraduate Certificate in Health-care Chaplaincy (London South Bank University). He is an accredited member of United Kingdom Board of Healthcare Chaplains (UKHBC). His hobbies include travelling, reading and pastoral care of the sick.

FREEMAN BROTHERS FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Holly Lodge
25 & 27 Brighton Road
Crawley
West Sussex
RH10 6AE
01293 540000

Independent and family-run since 1855

- Professional and caring service
- Pre-payment scheme available
- Beautiful and calm Chapel of Rest
- Monumental masonry services available
- Fleet of modern vehicles
- Full disabled access



Branches also at:

31 High Street, Billingshurst, 9 North Parade, Horsham
and 126 High Street, Hurstpierpoint.

hollylodge@freemanbrothers.co.uk

www.freemanbrothers.co.uk



Translating Faith Into Life a Catholic perspective

A Two-Monthly parishioner publication.

- Encounter with our Tradition
- Sharing Faith Experiences and Devotional Practices
- Questions answered

6 copies yearly Print Copy £5.95

Print Subscription £34.50 ex-
cluding Postage, Digital

Subscription £27.99, Donation
& Free Subscriptions digital only.



To ORDER visit www.thefaithcompanion.co.uk or email
thefaithcompanion@gmail.com or call 01403 754808