

The Net



Spring 2019
Issue 85

Community Newsletter of St Michael and All Angels, Lancing

Sunday Services

8 am Mass

10 am Parish Mass

followed by refreshments

Church Open

The Church is open
for visitors and private prayer
Monday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Christenings, Weddings,

Banns of Marriage

please contact

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Editor

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/stmichaelslancing



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Partnerships

Torvill and Dean, Laurel and Hardy, Morecambe and Wise, Rodgers and Hammerstein, Starsky and Hutch, Jeeves and Wooster – some of the great partnerships in living memory. It wouldn't be the same if there were just one of them. It isn't that they'd only be half as good, it's that it wouldn't have worked at all. Jeeves just isn't Jeeves without Wooster, and vice versa. The two come together to become something completely different, more than the sum of their parts. That's what makes a good partnership.

As you read this we are approaching Wedding season in the church. I've done lots of weddings in my time, and it's always a joy to bring couples together in that sacred moment. Sometimes there can

be disagreements beforehand: which songs to choose, the colour schemes, who will be best man, or what readings to have. Sometimes there can be nerves during, especially if the bride turns up almost an hour late as I experienced once (people were asking 'is she even coming?'). However, when

we get to the moment itself, as those words of commitment are being spoken in a beautiful setting, you know a wonderful partnership is being formed.

St. Michael's is getting its own new partnership this summer, as a Curate will be arriving at the church. A Curate is someone who is training how to be a Vicar. He will be with us for between three and four years, learning from me the nuts and bolts of what

this job is all about. Over this time, he'll grown in responsibilities and confidence, before he goes on to have his own parish. He is called Thomas Fink-Jensen and was born in Denmark, but

brought up in Holland, and will come with his wife Sarah and daughter Lilian. Our '5 Minutes With...' interview this month is with him, so do have a read of it! He'll also be introducing himself in the next edition of 'The Net'.



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It wasn't too long ago that I was a Curate myself, learning how to be a Vicar. The relationship with the person who is training you (called a Training Incumbent) can be a bit like a marriage: there are a fair share of disagreements, joys, frustrations, fears shared, and memories made. Unlike a marriage, however, after four years the Curate moves on and perhaps a new one arrives! Although, some might wish that happened with marriage too! Like a marriage, the partnership between a Curate and Training Incumbent is more than the sum of its parts too. The church can start doing some more exciting things to serve our community and further the love of God in Lancing. Whilst we might not be able to skate like Torvill and Dean, make you laugh like Laurel and Hardy or Morecambe and Wise, write music like Rodgers and Hammerstein, or solve crimes like Starsky and Hutch, we do hope that we might be a partnership that brings a blessing to this community.

So if you see Thomas around, do say 'hello' and ask him how it's going so far. If you're interested in forming your own partnership this year, and getting married in our church, do

have a look at the little section on marriage in this edition of 'The Net' and get in contact with me!

Father Felix Smith



5 Minutes With...Thomas Fink-Jensen

I'll be moving to Lancing in June with my wife Sarah and daughter Lilian. We'll be moving from Oxford where I'm currently studying Theology and preparing for ordination. After my deaconing on 29 June I'll be starting to work at St Michael and All Angels Church as the new Curate – helping Fr Felix and the church wherever I can, with whatever needs doing. I do hope to get to know as many people as possible – so do introduce yourself if you find me looking lost while wandering the streets of Lancing!

I love reading and usually have a number of books I am reading (rather inconveniently) at the same time. Currently I'm reading a brother Cadfael chronicle by Ellis Peters for leisure, as well as a book by Pope Benedict XVI about what it means to be a priest in preparation for my own future, and an excellent book by Brant Pitre on the origin of the Eucharist – a profound book which makes the wonderful news of Jesus giving himself for our sake come even more alive again.

I love many types of hymns, worship songs and styles of singing in church, and my favourites are all Dutch: heerlijk vooruitzicht, evenals een moede hinde, en uit de diepten are some of my current loves. However, hymns like *Love Divine all Loves Excelling* and *When I Survey* are some of my absolute favourites and never leave me untouched.

I love playing football, reading, history, and my wife has converted me to enjoying walking. We really look forward to being near the coast, and exploring the lovely countryside near Lancing!

Growing up, we always said our prayers every morning and evening as a family.



My parents later taught me to say my own prayers and read Scripture for myself at the beginning and end of each day as well. Having made that a habit since being a teenager, I often find that even the hardest or most obscure pieces of the Bible can speak to me very profoundly. I find that somehow God speaks to us through Scripture, especially when we least expect it.

My grandfather – who sadly died a few years ago – has always been a huge inspiration to me, and he always had a fun or inspiring story to tell. When, as a student, I lived around the corner from him after my grandmother had died, I visited him several times a week and we even went on holidays together. He was also the first person to encourage me to think about becoming a priest.

I love a good story, or a good joke. When people suffer and struggle that rarely leaves me untouched. I regularly find myself crying when people hurt one another and aren't able to reconcile themselves again.

I was born in the Danish capital: Copenhagen. If you ever have to chance to visit, do go! It's a lovely and worthwhile place to visit. When I was 4 years old we moved to the Netherlands, to a little town outside of Utrecht in the centre of the country, and that is where I lived for most of my life until I moved to Oxford 5 years ago.

Studying Theology it is hard to choose a favourite Bible verse! But I do like Matthew 11:28 a lot: 'Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.' After a few bad nights with a baby who hardly slept it seems particularly apt!

I would love to hear from God directly as to why Jesus hasn't returned yet to make all things right. There are so many sad and desperate situations and people in this world who desperately need the King of kings to make all things right – it is my great hope that Jesus might come to do that during our lifetime.

My wife would love for us to have a dog. However, due to countless bad experiences as a young child I am absolutely terrified by dogs. I know it (usually) isn't rational or necessary, but I always shy away whenever I see a dog – even if I manage to get over myself. I'm not great with heights either... The Netherlands is, however, a lovely flat country – ideal for me!

Thomas Fink-Jensen

Here comes the band

The Worthing Band of the Salvation Army will head into Lancing for an evening of music at 7.30 pm on Saturday 30 March in St Michael and All Angels Church.

The Worthing Band came into being in 1884. While Salvation Army founder General William Booth was conducting the opening services of Brighton Congress Hall, in March, an announcement was made that a warm friend and sympathiser of the Army had given a sum of money for the purchase of instruments for a band at Worthing. Apart from a short time when the band ceased to function between 1885 and 1888 due to the Worthing Riots, the band has been making music locally ever since.

Recently the band have played in joint concerts with Davison Worthing Youth Concert Band, provided entertainment for the Worthing Birdman competitions and performed in Arundel Cathedral in aid of St Barnabas House. They have also provided musical support for Remembrance events and the World War I centenary commemoration events.



Tickets are £5 and as a special Mothering Sunday offer any Mum accompanied by their child gets in free. Tickets can be booked by telephoning 01903 762793 (please leave a message), emailing stmichaelslancing@gmail.com or online at <https://worthing-salvationarmy-band.eventbrite.co.uk>

Are you thinking of getting married?

Did you know that a church wedding can often cost far less than getting married elsewhere?

We love having Weddings at St. Michael and All Angels, and Father Felix is happy to meet with any couple to talk through choices around music, readings, flowers and so on. Our hall can even be used for the reception, if needed.

You don't need to have come to St. Michael's before to get married in this beautiful building.

We pride ourselves on tailoring the wedding to you, and ensuring you have a day to remember, all in the beautiful space of our wonderful church. Contact Father Felix to discuss possibilities for a wedding in 2019 or 2020.

01903 753653 / vicar@stmichaelslancing.org.uk



Two events guaranteed to raise a laugh

If you fancy an evening guaranteed to make you laugh, then look no further - St Michael's has two of them coming up!

We are looking forward to welcoming Adrian and Bridget Plass will probably have you rolling in the aisles, with anecdotes based on life, the church and day-to-day experiences.

The evening will also leave you with the suspicion that God loves us in spite of (and maybe because of) all our shortcomings. Adrian Plass is well known as an author of a number of humorous and insightful books, in particular his series based on the Sacred Diary of Adrian Plass which is a humorous, fictional satire of Christian life and has sold over a million copies worldwide.



An Evening with Adrian and Bridget Plass - Friday 20 September at 7.30 pm in St Michael and All Angels Church. Tickets £10 Centre and £8 Sides - to book telephone 01903 762793 (leave a message), email stmichaelslancing@gmail.com or online at www.adrian-and-bridget-plass-lancing.eventbrite.co.uk.

A month later we will welcome Paul Kerensa, an award-winning writer and performer, to present an evening of comedy, stand-up and songs. Paul has written for BBC shows *Miranda*, *Not Going Out*, *Top Gear* and many others, and is a regular contributor to Radio 2's Pause For Thought. He also presents shows on BBC local radio (including BBC Sussex) and is a published author with numerous books under his belt.



An Evening with Paul Kerensa - Thursday 24 October at 7.30 pm in St Michael and All Angels Church. Tickets £10 Centre and £8 Sides - to book telephone 01903 762793 (leave a message), email stmichaelslancing@gmail.com or online at www.paulkerensa-lancing.eventbrite.co.uk.

We expect both events to be fantastic and also very popular so book your tickets soon!

Spring Sudoku

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| | 9 | | | | 4 | | | |
| 4 | | | | 8 | | 7 | | |

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COMPETITION CONDITIONS - Entries will only be accepted from addresses with postcodes BN15 8__ or from persons whose names are entered on St Michael's Church electoral roll. The first entry received per household will be accepted. The entry form is the whole of Page 4 of *The Net*. Do not tear or cut the page - a copy may be made, or one may be printed from St Michael's Church web site: www.stmichaelslancing.org.uk/communitynewsletter.htm

Send your answers to The Editor, St. Michael's Vicarage, 117 Penhill Road, Lancing, West Sussex, BN15 8HD. The first entry drawn on 21 April 2019 will win a £10 High Street voucher.

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What's On

Lent Lunches

A simple lunch of bread and soup

Fridays 22 / 29 March, 5 / 12 April
12 noon - 1.30 pm
St Michael's Church Hall



Donations welcome for
Turning Tides
(formerly Worthing Churches Homeless Projects)

Mothering Sunday

Sunday 31 March
Parish Mass, 10 am



Gifts of flowers will be distributed for mothers



FUN ACTIVITIES
FOOD
ALL AGE

Friday 29 March / 17 May , 3.30 - 6 pm
St Michael's Church Hall

Messy Church is for everyone - young and old alike.
If you are a child you will need to bring an adult with you
No charge - donations welcome for food
Further details 01903 761913 / www.stmichaelslancing.org



Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday (14 April)

8 am Mass

10 am Palm Procession and Parish Mass

Maundy Thursday (18 April)

7.30 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday (19 April)

9.30 am Stations of the Cross

11.15 am Open Air Service in North Road

3 pm Solemn Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday (20 April)

7.30 pm The Easter Vigil

Easter Day (Sunday 21 April)

8am Mass

10am Parish Mass *followed by egg rolling*

Mini Market & Coffee Morning

Saturdays 13 April / 11 May / 15 June
10 am - 12 noon

St Michael's Church Hall



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Useful tips for a new rear garden

For three days now, we have been told it is going to be the coldest night (writing this 2nd February!). The garden hose is safely stored in the shed, the outside tap carefully lagged, bird seed feeders refilled almost daily, their water bowls cleaned/ topped up. These jobs are not what I would term "real gardening" but they are items that need to be attended to *In The Bleak Mid Winter* (a favourite hymn!). I hope that by the end of this month I shall have done more real duties, in my own garden and in the church grounds.

I keep looking at the lawns, covered in weeds that remained uncontrolled at the end of last year. I had not the mental will nor the physical ability to get down to this problem, but – heyho – here comes spring and re-energising may take place (I stress the "may"!). Another job I failed to check on was the pruning of a favourite clematis. These beautiful climbing plants catch us out. There are several types and all need pruning at different times of the year, so it is imperative that, when you buy, you keep the instruction tab and adhere to what it says.



Along with everything else in our lives, garden fashions change. Remember that not long ago, all of our parks and gardens beds were regally dressed with white alyssum, blue lobelia and red salvia. Now, less annual plants are used, with grasses and larger shrubs being preferred. The economy and global warming have both played a part in this transformation and who is to say that, if Brexit comes to us in a way that increases the price of imported fresh fruit and veg, we shall not then see those same grasses and shrubs replaced by tomatoes and beans? It won't do us any harm to sow some veg seeds in our own plots, even if we normally just grow flowers.

I digress! Do feed your lawns this spring, do reseed the bare patches and water in. Do not mow too closely. Save the buying of bedding plants until all frosts are past, although new fruit bushes and roses are safe to plant at this time. Keep an eye on gardening magazines. They may seem expensive but are full of good advice, together with special offers for novices and experienced gardeners alike. Have a good Spring!

Jean Whale

Smoked Mackerel Pate

Ingredients

- 2 medium smoked mackerel filleted
- 5 fl oz soured cream
- 4 oz cottage cheese
- 1 tbsp lemon juice
- Salt and Pepper
- Couple of pinches of cayenne pepper

Method

First skin the mackerel then flake the fish and place it in the liquidiser and add the cottage cheese, soured cream and lemon juice.

Switch on and blend until completely smooth. If you don't have a liquidiser then add all ingredients into a bowl and blend with a hand held blender.

Spoon the mixture into a bowl, taste and season with salt and pepper.

Spoon mixture into a large bowl, cover with foil and chill for several hours before serving.

Just before serving sprinkle the cayenne pepper over the top.

Serve with watercress and toast or crackers.

Hire a table at Mini Markets

Tables now available for hire at our regular Mini Markets on the second Saturday of each month (except July, August and December).

For further information or to book a table contact Den by email btongpp98@gmail.com

Christmas wordsearch

The winner was Mrs P Farley



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