

ST MARY
THE VIRGIN

Eastbourne Parish



PARISH MAGAZINE OCT/NOV 2025



IMAGE TAKEN BY KEVIN GORDON

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Welcome to a long overdue edition of our Parish Magazine on the theme of Harvest and Thanksgiving. We have much to give thanks for here in this parish given the months since our last edition have seen us busy with our worship and ministry.

Many of our regular worshippers have mentioned their delight at seeing new faces in our midst - if you are new to St Mary's, please know how very welcome you are.

We give thanks for the growth and renewal amongst us and pray that we may continue to discern and delight in God's plans for this parish.

Many thanks for the wonderful contributions made this time around. This magazine (available online in full colour or printed in partial black and white) is provided free of charge because communication is so vital to the life of our parish and church community. The Magazine is mainly shared electronically, but if you would like to contribute towards the costs for those who need a printed copy, that would be gratefully received. Please feel free to contact to make a donation.

Submission for the next quarterly Parish Newsletter should be sent to our new editor, Nigel Carter, **by 14th November**. Do send in your items whether poetry, articles, photographs, funny, profound or historical. Themes for the period of Christmas, Epiphany and Winter will be particularly welcome. Send to nigelcarter43@btinternet.com

From James Hazleden ...

*If you were in court, accused of being a Christian,
would there be enough evidence to convict you?*

Many of us may know Fairlight and Hastings Country Park as a place of bracing walks, sweeping skies, and vast horizons. Yet for the French Jesuit priest and scientist Pierre Teilhard de Chardin (1881–1955), this coastline became more than a pleasant landscape.

Teilhard had entered the Jesuits as a young man, studied philosophy in Jersey, taught in Cairo, and later trained in theology at Hastings and Ore Place before being ordained priest there in 1911. The same Sussex coast that shaped his early ministry later became a place of profound prayer and reflection when, during wartime exile from France in 1916–19, he returned as a stretcher-bearer. On his days off he would walk the cliffs between Hastings and Fairlight, notebook in hand, pondering the deep connection between God, creation, and the cosmos.

Out of this period emerged some of his most enduring spiritual insights, later gathered in works such as Hymn of the Universe and the famous prayer known as the Mass on the World. Teilhard's vision was striking: all creation is caught up in Christ, and the whole material universe can be offered in worship, just as bread and wine are offered at the altar. Standing on those Sussex cliffs, he glimpsed the Eucharist not only as a ritual within church walls, but as something woven through the fabric of the earth itself.

His "Mass on the World" is a meditation written in the desert while serving as a chaplain, when he had no bread or wine to celebrate. Instead, he lifted up the whole earth as his altar: the labour of workers, the suffering of soldiers, the rising sun. It is both cosmic and deeply local - rooted in his surroundings, whether a battlefield or the quiet paths above Fairlight Glen.

For us today, Teilhard's writings are a reminder that our worship is never just words or actions within a service. Every walk on the cliffs, every act of care, every moment of beauty glimpsed in sea or sky can become part of our "hymn of the universe". The God we meet in bread and wine is also the God whose presence fills earth and heaven alike.

So next time you stand looking out from Fairlight towards the horizon, remember Teilhard de Chardin: priest, scientist, pilgrim - and let your heart join his prayer of praise for a world transfigured in Christ.

Mthr. Arwen



Services & Feasts

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES:

9.45 SUNG EUCHARIST *this is also live-streamed*

8am BCP *1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays*

12.15pm BCP *2nd & 4th Sundays*

3.30pm FAMILY SERVICE *1st of every month*

6pm EVENSONG *Usually Choral on 2nd Sunday, with
Benediction on 3rd Sunday, Sung on 4th Sundays*

Please **always double-check times in the bulletin.**



12th October

9.45am Eucharist

6pm Evensong

SEASONAL SERVICES Dates & Times

5th Oct @ 3.30pm: Family Eucharist

12th Oct @ 6pm Choral Evensong for Harvest

guest preacher The Rev'd. Ben Sleep, Rural Dean

19th Oct @ 4pm: Songs of Praise

2nd Nov @ 3.30pm Family Eucharist

3rd Nov @ 7pm Requiem for All Souls

9th Nov @ 10.30am Sung Eucharist with an Act of Remembrance

9th Nov @ 6pm Choral Evensong for Remembrance

30th Nov @ 6pm Choral Evensong for Advent

guest preacher The Ven. Russell Dewhurst, Archdeacon of Hastings

7th Dec @ 4pm Christingle and Tree Blessing

TIMES OF PRAYER in the North Chapel

MORNING PRAYER @ 9am Mon, Tue, Wed & Thur

SILENT PRAYER @ 4pm Wed



CELEBRATIONS!

Congratulations to all who have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, or Marriage at St Mary's over the past six months. It has been a joyful privilege to celebrate with you all.





With thanks to the Social Committee. If you'd like to help in any way, please contact via the Office

CHURCH EVENTS

Harvest Supper - 11th October 6pm in the Old Parsonage

Tickets £8 from the Office

Berwick Walk - 18th October (Dcn. Hilary for details)

Breakfast / Brunch for Open Doors - Nov 8th @ 10.30am (£8)

Advent Quiet Day - 29th November - details to follow

Advent Family Workshop - 7th December - 2.30-4pm

CHURCH TALKS

The Council of Nicea - with Eric Hylton on Nov 1st @ 5pm

How the Bible became English - with Mthr Arwen on Nov 15th @ 5pm

Book Launch '12 Churches' - with Rev'd Fergus Butler-Gallie Jan 11th @ 3pm

Please sign up for the talks on the sheet in the South Aisle.



PARISH NEWS

THANK YOU The parish has so much to give thanks for over the months since the last Parish Magazine. In these pages you will see pictures of all our events and occasions. Thank you to the volunteers who make our life together possible.

The whole church gives thanks to Nancy Randles who has stepped down as PCC Secretary and Treasurer. Nancy has helped navigate the church through a number of seasons and we thank her for all she has given to us. Richard Long has taken over as PCC Secretary for the remainder of this year and Jim Fletcher is PCC Treasurer (with Brian Etheridge continuing as Stewardship Officer).

GENEROSITY We rely on your generosity to maintain the life and fabric of St Mary's, every gift, donation and legacy make a huge difference to what we are able to do in the service of God and neighbour. Please do consider making a donation, whether regular or one-off, or leaving a legacy to St Mary's in your will. With your generosity we are resourced to live out the calling that God has placed upon us. See page 9.

PASTORAL CARE If you know of someone who would welcome a visit, Home Communion or pastoral support within our community, please let Vicky Peattie know. We have a wonderful team who would love to reach out to anyone who needs support, companionship or Holy Communion

NEW WEBSITE Our new website is being launched and we do encourage you all to go and have a look. Alf England and the Vicar have worked together to create a website that reflects the fullness of our life together. If you have any suggestions to add, please let Mthr Arwen know.

THE CHURCHYARD UPDATE

Despite the usual excuses for absence by team members, quite a variety, we are averaging six members of the team turning up each Friday morning. The numbers can increase when we get to the Lamb! Compared to a couple of years ago, when only two or three were turning out, this gives us encouragement, especially when we see what have achieved on a Friday, and we have fun working together.

Amongst the tasks we have carried out this summer, we have been able to tidy up the Well Garden (for the Patronal Hog Roast), and the Old Parsonage car park area (for the Church Fayre), in addition to maintaining the paths and the headstones, in the memorial garden.

Whilst we try and remove ivy and other invasive plants from the flint walls, some



are too embedded, which will require the walls to be repaired after the roots are removed. The Building Committee are in contact with the Council, who have overall responsibility to deal with this issue. We will be attempting to tidy the remainder of the site up this autumn, notably when the trees shed their leaves, and put down some mulch to improve the soil.

We would like to say thank you, to all those walking through the Churchyard, for their positive comments, which gives us such encouragement, given that we are working towards a council pension!

On a lighter note, we have even featured in the local Lib Dems' newsletter Focus.

You will have noticed that the Christmas tree has flourished despite the dry summer, due to regular watering by the team. Thus, this Christmas will be the first time we have a growing tree, which we can decorate. Naturally over the years it will grow to its full height.

If anyone would like to join the team do get in contact ~ Eric Hylton





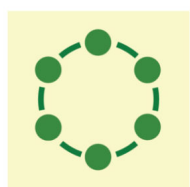
GATHERINGS! Fabric of Faith, the Dog Show & The Summer Fayre have seen us welcome people from right across the community





SHARING IN OUR GROWTH AND RENEWAL

This is an exciting time in the life of our parish. We are seeing new growth in worship, fellowship, and outreach – and our beautiful church building is at the heart of it all. Your giving makes this possible: caring for the building, welcoming new people, and resourcing ministry as we confidently embrace this season of opportunity. Please consider supporting generously, so that together we can gratefully nurture the life God is evidently growing among us.



PARISH
GIVING
SCHEME

HOW TO SUPPORT ST MARY'S

Regular Giving helps us to sustain our ministry and plan for the future. You can set-up or increase your regular giving with the Parish Giving Scheme. Scan the QR code to be taken to our page.

One-off Donations often enable us to focus on particular projects or seize opportunities for service and outreach. Please contact our Treasurer, eastbourneparishtreasurer@gmail.com to have a chat about the best way to make such a donation or you can use the card readers which are inside the church.

Legacies Some people decide to leave a gift in their will to St Mary's and these are also greatly appreciated and make a real difference.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US TO FLOURISH





During May and July 325 AD, 1700 years ago this year, a Council was held at Nicaea (now called Iznik) a small town near the Bosphorus Straits, in today's Turkey. The Council was remarkable for a lot of reasons; how it came about, its lasting and profound impact on Christianity. A lot of its decisions still apply today, some have been beneficial, and maybe some not, together with some unintended consequences. One reason it was extraordinary, was the scale of the representation of the Christian clergy. It is thought that 318 Christian bishops and together with their deacons, attended a Council., a total clerical attendance may have been between 1,200 and 1,900.¹ At the time, it is estimated that there were around 1,000 Bishops throughout the Roman Empire, including Britain, and beyond to the East of the Empire– we know that there were representatives from Persia, and Scythia. Of that number, it is understood only three were from the Western part of the Empire, the remainder were from the Eastern part, which was the theological centre of Christianity. This was clearly a major event in the life of the early church yet 22 years previously a campaign to eradicate Christianity had been unleashed by the Emperor Diocletian in February 303. He did this

through a number of Edicts, agreed by all four Emperors. Why four Emperors I will answer later. These Edicts included the rescinding the legal rights, destruction of Churches and scriptures culminating

in torture and execution if the individual failed to comply with traditional religious practices. Many of the Bishops and Deacons attending the Council, still bore the scars mentally, and physically, from that period of persecution, So, you can imagine, that for many of those attending the Council, they must have wondered at the miraculous change of fortune for the Christian Church, and for them personally. Yet here they were talking, discussing and making critical decisions for Christianity, without fear of persecution, and in complete freedom of professing their faith and moulding its future. Throw into the mix, clergy with strong personalities, with uncompromising views, and convictions of their ideas as to what it is to be a follower of Christ. There were, perhaps a good number of attendees, with an eye on their position in the potential organisational restructuring, rather than principles. Thus, the council could be viewed as a typical political party conference, that had the potential of a powder keg to explode. **And how had this complete reversal of fortunes occurred?** It was down to one man- the Emperor Constantine.....

Come for the full Talk on The Council of Nicea, by Eric Hylton on 2nd November

MOTHERS' UNION AT ST MARY'S



After our summer break we usually enjoy the run up to Christmas. At the moment we meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 2pm, usually in the Old Parsonage. We started with our Opening Service on September 25th, led by Mother Arwen who is also one of our members. Our branch theme for this worship was "Reducing fear and prejudice", chosen as reflecting many current situations around the world, and also nearer to home. We are an apolitical group that tries to follow Christ's teaching.

Our events for the rest of this year are as follows:

- On October 9th Janet Mottram will talk about her work as a Magistrate. She is also a volunteer at Bernhard Baron Care Home where a number of our past and present congregation now live.
- Saturday October 18th is our diocesan gathering of MU members from East and West Sussex, held in St John's Church, Brighton, and as it is Anti Slavery Day there will be speakers on modern day slavery, which is an MU interest.
- And on the 23rd Father Neville will talk to us about hymns. I'm sure that will be very well received.
- For the past few years we have had a pre-Christmas crafting session and that will be our meeting on November 13th, and will be led by Lesley Harcourt and Gail Richards. These sessions are always enjoyed and will probably attract a good number.
- Along with modern day slavery another MU campaigning issue is domestic violence. So on the 27th there will be a discussion on the RISE UP campaign on domestic abuse in all its forms. You may have noticed the posters in the toilets and around church. Nationally the Mothers' Union holds 16 days of activism against gender based violence yearly, this year starting on November 25th.
- We finish 2025 with a party for members in the OP on December 12th.

If anyone is interested in joining the MU we would warmly welcome you. Our committee comprises Elaine Beynon, Gill Cant, Anne Eastbury, Elaine Fletcher, Sue Long and Gill Siggs. Please have a chat with any of us. You don't need to be female or a mother to join, but you do need to be interested in family support, especially when things have gone wrong, and be willing to pray.

GOD'S RECREATION OF THE NEW DAY



Here in Eastbourne, where land meets sea, the story of the Creation in Genesis 1 has added meaning. The Spirit of God moves over a darkened sea and issues the great command, "Let there be light!" The sea is the source of life and death, for only God is mightier than the strongest waves. In baptism the early Christians figuratively drowned in the water so that they could be raised to a new spiritual life in Jesus. The sea can be alternately calm and inviting or threatening and terrifying.

About two months ago, I joined a swimming group called "We swam thru." We meet at 6 a.m. from Monday to Friday for a dip before work. The others are much younger than I am, more my daughter's generation in fact, and some of the conversations about yoga moves or social media are like a foreign language to me, but we look after each other and I am much happier to enter rougher seas than before.

Now that the nights are gradually beginning to draw in, we are starting to witness the most glorious sunrises. We have seen the sky turning various shades of pink and then the amazing phenomenon of the sun rising like a gigantic yellow ball from the depths of the sea. Today we swam by the light of a full moon which afterwards sank rapidly out of view as the sun took its place.

Walking briskly after the swim, while the numbness gradually retreats from my feet, I appreciate the peace and calm, where only litter collectors, joggers, paddle boarders and dog walkers seem to be around, and the only sound comes from singing birds and waves lapping the shores.

When I was a child, my father taught at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, which at that time educated the sons of naval officers. Matins and Evensong were compulsory and at the end of the latter, everyone joined together to raise the roof in singing the last verse of "Eternal Father strong to save", a hymn that had added poignancy so soon after World War 2: O Trinity of love and power, our brethren shield in danger's hour / From rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go. / Thus evermore shall rise to Thee glad hymns of praise from land and sea.

When we gaze up at the sky in the early morning, we are also reminded of the last verse of another hymn: "Morning has broken": Mine is the sunlight / mine is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play! / Praise with elation, praise every morning God's recreation of the new day! / We reflect on the reliability of God and the way in which day has followed night in the same way from the beginning of time right up until now so that every day is a new creation and a fresh opportunity

Katherine Musson

Harvest Rap by Katherine Musson

There once was a sower
with a basket of grain.
He scattered it so quickly
as it looked like rain.
He wasn't very careful.
Some fell by his feet,
And he didn't see
when the birds begin to eat
He threw a lot of seed
among the stones and rocks.
At first it grew up quickly,
but it had a shock.
For the soil wasn't deep,
so the roots couldn't last.
And when the sun rose in the sky,
it shrivelled fast.
And lots more seed fell
among the thistles and thorns.
At first it grew fast
into little grains of corn,
But the thorns and thistles
flourished and grew instead,
And choked the little seedlings
and they dropped down dead.
But he threw a lot of seeds
into good soil too.
The sun shone and the rain fell
and it grew and grew,
Till all the fields were full
of golden waving corn,
And a great and glorious harvest
was reaped that morn!
So though the words of Jesus
don't get through to all,
For some refuse to hear Him
when He gives His call
Yet the Kingdom of Heaven,
by the Power of God,
Is full of souls who listen
and obey His word.

THE SUNLIGHT ON THE GARDEN

~ Louis MacNeice

The sunlight on the garden
Hardens and grows cold.
We cannot cage the minute
Within its nets of gold;
When all is told
We cannot beg for pardon.
Our freedom as free lancers
Advances towards its end;
The earth compels, upon it
Sonnets and birds descend:
And soon, my friend,
We shall have no time for dances.
The sky was good for flying
Defying the church bells
And every evil iron
Siren and what it tells;
The earth compels,
We are dying, Egypt, dying
And not expecting pardon,
Hardened in heart anew,
But glad to have sat under
Thunder and rain with you,
And grateful too
For sunlight on the garden.



You are invited to join us for

SONGS OF PRAISE

Giving thanks for Creation

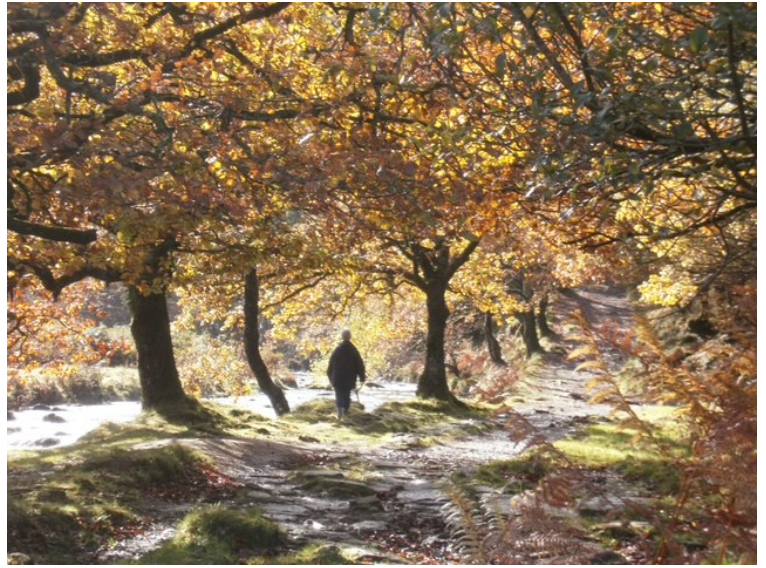
4pm October 19th



St Mary's, Church St. Old Town

THE SEASON OF AUTUMN AND REMEMBRANCE

In September, as the evenings draw in and the temperature cools, we are reminded of Keat's 'Season of mellow fruitfulness'. Harvest Festival reminds us of both ripening and decline, and leads to All Saints tide, celebrating the Communion of all the faithful - and thoughts of the passing of our own lives as well as of loved ones departed. We live in an in-between time, as described in Isaac Watts' hymn:



O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come / Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home / A thousand ages in Thy sight are like an evening gone / Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.

As a resurrection people we know this transitory life is not the end, but a taste of things to come, just as the autumn and winter dying down of nature gives way to spring and new shoots. Malcolm Guite, priest and poet, in his book "Love, Remember. 40 poems of loss, lament and hope", reflects on this theme, drawing on poems of his own and others'. We live in a culture that leaves little room for grief and tears. Funerals are referred to as 'celebrations of life'.

Using a selection of poems, from Shakespeare to Carol Ann Duffy, Guite offers us a map, to guide us on our journey from the threshold of death and the shock of loss, to remembering with love and looking forward in hope...a guide which reveals the journey of grief is also where we may experience sudden moments of grace, unexpected glimpses of hope and intimations of immortality .

I offer you a taster from Guite's own sonnets, and the journey from loss and grief to hope: Let not your hearts be troubled (John 14:1) "Always there comes this parting of the ways, The best is wrested from us, borne away , no one is with us always, nothing stays...You know too well this trouble in our hearts , Your heart is troubled for us, feels it too....You share with us in time that shears and parts To draw us out of time and into you..I go that you might come to where I am. Your word comes home to us and brings us home."

And the hope of Easter Dawn: when the risen Lord appears to Mary Magdalene at the tomb: 'She cannot focus through her tears, or recognise the Gardener standing there. She hears his gentle question 'Why are you weeping?' or sees the play of light That brightens as she chokes out her reply 'They took my love away, my day is night' And then she hears her name, she hears Love say The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

by Vicky Peattie

HARVESTING, 1930'S STYLE (An extract from *Tales from Church Cottage* by Sheila and Tony Ward, a work in progress).

In the 1930's, women with postsecondary education typically worked as nurses, teachers, clerks, or secretaries until they found a husband. Upon leaving school, aged 17, despite her mother's opposition, on the grounds that it would bring her daughter into unsuitably close contact with men, mum was set upon training as a nurse. However, you had to be aged 18 to start the course. Mum had to fill in time.

At this point, mum's family had moved to Arrow, near Alcester, Warwickshire, where my grandad had secured a job as head carter, on a local farm. "We need to find you some jobs to do, love. Would you like me to teach you how to handle the horses?" "Yes please, Dad, that would be great," Mum replied enthusiastically. "You won't get paid though," he added. As a result, one of Mum's first 'fill-in' jobs was hay harvesting, handling a heavy-horse-drawn mowing machine, a task she continued to help with throughout the 1930s. She became one of the youngest 'apprentice carters', and the only woman in a man's world. This was of course to change with the outbreak of WW2 when the Landgirls were needed to fill in for men called up to fight.

Picture: Sheila's mother, Kath Sheppard, aged 17, hay harvesting in 1932.



Morning Has Broken is a hymn that resonates with a profound sense of renewal, gratitude, and reverence for the beauty of creation. Its simple yet evocative lyrics, paired with a traditional Gaelic melody, have made it a cherished piece in both religious and secular contexts. Written by Eleanor Farjeon in 1931 and set to the tune Bunessan, the hymn captures the freshness of a new day and the spiritual connection between humanity and the natural world. This essay explores the origins, themes, musicality, and enduring appeal of Morning Has Broken, highlighting its significance as a celebration of creation and divine presence.

Origins and Historical Context

The hymn was first published in 1931 in the second edition of *Songs of Praise*, a hymnal edited by Percy Dearmer, Martin Shaw, and Ralph Vaughan Williams. Eleanor Farjeon, an English author known for her children's literature and poetry, wrote the text at the request of the editors, who sought a hymn that would express gratitude for the beauty of a new day. Farjeon drew inspiration from the simplicity and spirituality of the natural world, crafting lyrics that reflect both Christian theology and a universal appreciation for creation. She also drew inspiration from the beauty of the countryside around the Village of Alfriston in East Sussex.

It is, indeed, a Sussex hymn.

The melody, Bunessan, is a traditional Gaelic tune named after a village on the Isle of Mull in Scotland. Its origins are older, likely rooted in 19th-century Scottish folk music, and it was adapted by Martin Shaw for the hymn. The choice of this melody was fitting, as its gentle, lilting quality complements the hymn's themes of serenity and renewal. The combination of Farjeon's words and the Bunessan tune created a hymn that feels timeless and deeply rooted in tradition. The hymn gained widespread recognition in the 1970s when it was popularised by folk singer Cat Stevens (later Yusuf Islam) in his 1971 album *Teaser and the Firecat*. Stevens' rendition, with its delicate arrangement and heartfelt delivery, introduced the hymn to a broader audience, cementing its place in popular culture. While the hymn remains a staple in Christian worship, its universal themes have made it a favourite in interfaith and secular settings alike.

Themes and Meaning At its core, Morning Has Broken is a hymn of praise for the gift of a new day and the wonders of creation. The opening lines —“*Morning has broken like the first morning / Blackbird has spoken like the first bird*” - evoke the imagery of Genesis, where each new day is a fresh act of creation, imbued with the same divine beauty and potential as the first day of the world. References to the blackbird's song, the dew on the grass, and the sunlight illuminating the world create a sensory experience that feels both intimate and universal. *Cont....*

These images ground the hymn in the everyday beauty of nature while pointing to a truth: that creation is an ongoing process, renewed each morning through divine grace. Another key theme is gratitude. The refrain of praise - "Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! / Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!"- encourages thankfulness for the simple gifts of life. The phrase "fresh from the Word" ties the hymn to Christian theology, suggesting that the world is sustained by God's creative power, or the Logos, as described in the Gospel of John. Yet the hymn's accessibility lies in its ability to speak to people of all beliefs, inviting them to marvel at the beauty of existence and find joy in the ordinary.

The hymn also carries a sense of hope and renewal. By likening each morning to the "first morning," Farjeon suggests that every day offers a fresh start, a chance to experience the world with new eyes. This message resonates deeply in a world often marked by struggle and uncertainty, offering a reminder that beauty and grace are ever-present, waiting to be noticed.

Musicality and Emotional Impact

The Bunessan melody is a perfect complement to Farjeon's lyrics, enhancing the hymn's emotional and spiritual resonance. Its simplicity allows the lyrics to shine, while its folk origins lend it an earthy, accessible quality. The melody's repetitive phrasing creates a sense of calm and continuity, mirroring the



cyclical nature of daybreak and the renewal it represents.

Enduring Appeal

The enduring appeal of Morning Has Broken lies in its ability to bridge the sacred and the secular, the specific and the universal. Its Christian roots are evident, yet its themes of gratitude, renewal, and awe at the natural world speak to people of all backgrounds. The hymn's imagery is vivid yet accessible, allowing listeners to connect with it on a personal level, whether they are in a church pew, a concert hall, or simply listening at home. In an age of rapid change and environmental challenges, the hymn's celebration of nature takes on added significance. It serves as a reminder to pause and appreciate the beauty of the world, even as humanity grapples with its responsibility to care for it.

Article by ~ Helen Wilson

The Eastbourne Unit of the Maritime Volunteer Service

The Eastbourne Unit of the Maritime Volunteer Service MVS, has taken part in significant events this summer, so I thought brief notes might be of interest. MVS is a National Charity with the Eastbourne Unit based at Sovereign Harbour where it maintains and operates the national training ship MVS East Sussex 1, a former naval vessel of just under thirty tons.

On the 23rd of May, East Sussex 1 had the honour of being part of the Escort for the 85th anniversary return flotilla of the Dunkirk Little Ships to the town and beaches where they helped save 338,000 Allied troops during Operation Dynamo in 1940. Led by a Naval Escort under Eastbourne's nominated warship, HMS Puncher, East Sussex 1 sailed at the rear to protect the convoy as it crossed the very busy shipping lanes of the Channel. Arriving safely at Dunkirk, the Little Ships gathered in the Basin du Commerce in the town centre for a week end of commemorative events. The MVS ship's company attended the Service at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission Cemetery, where they were inspected by our Royal Patron, Prince Michael of Kent, who is Honorary Admiral of the Association of Dunkirk Little Ships. The Flotilla was due to return to Ramsgate after the weekend, but foul weather intervened, and all but the largest craft had to wait until the following Saturday for conditions to moderate. This meant that the Naval Escort had been required elsewhere, so East Sussex 1 had the honour and great responsibility of leading the convoy of some thirty Little

Ships back home across the shipping lanes. These small craft are wonderful and stirring sight, a great tribute to the owners who restore and keep them and to the historic part they played. Having seen the convoy safely to Ramsgate, East Sussex 1 returned to Station at Sovereign Harbour, encountering lively sea conditions on the way!

On the next Bank Holiday, East Sussex 1 undertook a collection of the huge amount of plastic waste which accumulates below Beachy Head. This she has done for the past several years. It is quite a difficult operation. A local volunteer group, lead by the splendidly named 'Warm Norm', collect the waste over many weeks and pack it into huge builders' bags. Since there is no road access, the only way to remove it is by sea. Accordingly, when sea and tides permit, East Sussex 1 anchors as close in is safe and the builders' bags are hauled out to her and hoisted aboard. She then returns to Sovereign Harbour to unload, where the plastics are collected for recycling by the EBC Customer First team. (*continued next page*)

"Queen's Diamond Jubilee
Volunteering Award 2012"



Patron: HRH Prince Michael of Kent GCVO CD KStJ
President: Admiral the Right Honourable the Lord
West of Spithead GCB DSC PC

The amount of plastics can be judged as it generally requires two lorry loads to shift it. The waste accumulates by the effect of wind and tides, and is an ongoing problem. When first started, the collections included items from the 50s and 60s, now it is more recent. MVS is proud to be able to help protect our maritime environment, not least as it is one of the Service's Charitably Objectives. Other activities include raising awareness of maritime issues, offering sea time to local youth and other organisations, training our own members and forming part of the

Sussex Resilience Forum. Occasionally, too, East Sussex 1 is asked to carry out a Committal at Sea, for which she is one of the few vessels authorised to do so.

If anyone would like to know more about the MVS, the National Website is www.mvs.org.uk and the local Head of Unit can be reached at mvseastsussexhou@gmail.com. You can also bend my ear if you wish!

Eddie Oades, Engineer Officer,
Maritime Volunteer Service.

Images from the Pet Service on September 28th



PARISH CONTACTS

VICAR

Mthr Arwen Folkes
07946 763 044 /01323 379001
vicarofeastbourne@gmail.com
(The Vicar's rest day is Friday)

CHURCH WARDENS

Sven Hambly
churchwardeneastbourne@gmail.com
Gill Siggs 07 787 524 325

VERGER

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vergeratstmarys@gmail.com
(Verger's day off is Tuesday)

DEACON

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deaconhilaryp@gmail.com
01323 411816

READER

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readervickyp@gmail.com

OFFICE

Helen Wilson 725 722
(Opening Hours Mon-Fri: 10-12)
stmaryseastbourne@outlook.com

SAFEGUARDING

Elaine Beynon 07595 302 379
stmarysebsafeguarding@outlook.com
(Safeguarding day off is Wednesday –
please contact the Vicar in an
emergency)

TREASURER

Jim Fletcher
eastbourneparishtreasurer@gmail.com

WEBSITE

www.stmaryseastbourne.co.uk

FACEBOOK

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Contact
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