



Pathways

Future Events

Welcome to the Church

This course will be held on:

Saturday, April 12th and

Tuesday, September 23rd

9:30 am—4:30 pm

Church House, Hove
Cost includes course book, coffee, lunch and tea. £18.50 pp

Cheques payable to "Chichester DBF"

Who will benefit from the course? It is aimed at clergy, Readers and other lay ministers, churchwardens and others who take an active interest in developing a ministry of welcome.

The 2008 Village Church for Village Life Award was launched on December 20th. It will be presented to the finest adaptation of a historic rural parish church which allows for its continuing as a place of worship as well as encouraging a use of the building for the wider benefit of the village community in the 21st century. The winner will receive £10,000 and the runner up £5,000. The closing date is Shrove Tuesday (February 5th). Details: www.churchestourismassociation.info

Sussex-Normandy bid for EU Interreg IVa funding

On November 12th the European Union approved the next Interreg project which will run from 2008 to 2013. Readers will remember that they were invited to register their interest in taking part in this project more than 18 months ago. I am working on the application form and plan to submit a bid in February, which will be handled by the Steering Committee in Rouen at their meeting in May or June for a project ending in 2010.

The geographical area is larger than for the previous project, so sites in West Sussex can also be included in our bid. It includes all of northern coastal Europe, from Holland and Belgium through to Brittany. It is necessary to work with a manageable area and also one with which we have historical links. We have chosen three French departments, Manche, Calvados and Seine-Maritime. In addition to those places which will receive direct funding, we hope to develop a faith trail throughout Sussex.

Those places which will bid for direct funding are:

Chichester Cathedral - "Fantasia in Light and Sound" and cleaning and restoration of the cloisters.

Boxgrove Priory— removal of pews, new floor, heating system and lighting.

St Augustine, Scaynes Hill— a new parish room with kitchen and toilets.

St Peter ad Vincula, Wisborough

Green—publishing a booklet on links with Dieppe.

St George, Kemp Town, Brighton— a tapestry and French teacher for the toddlers group.

St Paul, Brighton—renovations to the cloister, narthex and fisherman's vestry

and new kitchen. There is a possibility than one other place of worship may be included, pending a final decision.

The project will also include exchanges of choirs, educational visits, art exhibitions and forming links between congregations and strengthening those which already exist. Our vision is that French visitors coming to Sussex will have an enjoyable time visiting our many interesting places of worship and that we can enjoy the same benefits when visiting Normandy.

A large (and more visible) part of the project will be the development of the faith trail. This will include:

- Use of a common logo
- Bi-lingual leaflet and website
- Signage, including local authority signs and "Open" signs
- Bi-lingual information at each site
- Short, 2 hour "Welcome" courses for volunteers who greet visitors
- A "passport" for visitors to stamp at each site

I hope that another 40-50 places of worship will participate in this part of the project. The requirements are:

1. Regular opening hours throughout the year
2. Availability of information in French for adults (and hopefully, children)
3. If possible, pre-booked guided tours in French available
4. Someone to attend the "Welcome to the Church" day course (churches only)
5. Completion of timesheets for voluntary hours as this forms the match funding necessary.

There may be some costs for administration involved. If you are interested, get in touch **ASAP!**

SACRED SUSSEX

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Sacred Sussex website

In the last issue of Pathways, places of worship were encouraged to send their details to David Mason at Church House for inclusion on the Sacred Sussex website. Sadly, only 27 have done so! This is astonishing, considering that I have more than 300 sites registered. So I repeat the details below:

Please include the following. If an item is starred, it is **essential**. If not, it is optional.

- *1. Location (village, town, etc)
- *2. Dedication/name
- *3. Street or road
- *4. Denomination/faith
- *5. Ordnance Survey grid reference number (two letters + six digits) for your location
- *6. Two telephone numbers with post (not name) for each, ie Churchwarden, Visitor's Officer, Minister, Rabbi
- *7. Description of building, congregation and its history (100 words maximum)
- *8. Opening hours. If you are open 24 hours a day, I will put "dawn to dusk" for security reasons.
- *9. Which of the following applies to you:
Bus service nearby—at least once an hour
Car parking
Guided tours available
Railway station within 1 mile
Refreshments (at your premises or nearby)
Toilets (at your premises or nearby)
Wheelchair access
These will be marked by the use of symbols as in most tourism brochures, but can also include specific details such as bus numbers.
- *10. Photo
- 11. Website address
- 12. Times of worship services

A reminder that the 100 word description should be factual, not flowery descriptions of "peaceful atmosphere", etc, etc.

E-mail your entry to david.mason@diochi.org.uk.
We cannot accept entries by any other means.

www.sacredsussex.org

Thank you to Chichester Cathedral for providing the enclosed information about George Bell House. He was a great ecumenist and there will be many events to mark the 50th anniversary of his death.

Church tourism— moving forward

*Over the last two years, with the help of a secondment from VisitBritain, the key organisations that have an interest in church tourism have come together to form the **Sacred Britain Tourism Partnership**: The Churches Conservation Trust, the Churches Tourism Association, the Cathedral and Church Buildings Division of the Church of England, Civic Trust, English Heritage and VisitBritain.*

The Partnership is building strong links with The Pilgrims' Association, Churches Tourism Network Wales, Scotland's Churches Scheme, Sacred Sussex and the Yorkshire Churches Regional Commission and other church tourism initiatives across the UK.

Steps are being taken to include other faith groups as in a multicultural Britain the opportunity to visit the sacred places of different faiths is a unique and emerging visitor experience.

The main aim is to provide an effective mechanism for the development of strategy and a shared vision to enable the promotion and development of tourism involving places of worship and sacred places.

*The Sacred Britain Tourism Partnership launched its strategy document: **An Agenda for Action: Sacred Britain: Places of Worship and the Tourism Destination Experience** at the Church Tourism Association's annual national convention in November 2006 in the presence of David Lammy, MP, the then Minister of Culture.*

This strategy aims to make churches and places of worship a "must see" part of exploring Britain's destinations.
- Church Times

NB! Joseph Mirwitch from Jewish Heritage UK joined our last Partnership meeting, although unfortunately the newly-appointed Muslim representative could not attend. If you would like to read the strategy, I can send you a copy or it can be downloaded from the CTA website: www.churchestourismassociation.info

Are you the right person to be receiving *Pathways*?

On a fairly regular basis I receive phone calls or e-mails from people who have read about Sacred Sussex or who have visited the website. They ask why their church hasn't been included and when checking, I usually find that they have been a member for years! My contact person may have resigned from the council, may be seriously ill, etc, but I have no way of knowing this. So if all you do is read it and throw it away (or throw it away before reading it!) but don't pass on any information—let me send it to someone else! Many opportunities for funding have been lost because of my designated contact not understanding this and alerting those who matter. JH