



Pathways

Volume 5 Issue 2

July 2006

Future Events

Welcome to the Church
Tuesday,
September 26th
Diocesan Church House,
211 New Church Road,
Hove

9:30 am—4:00 pm
Lunch provided
£17.50 pp includes
participant's pack &
certificate

Please inform me if the person to whom this newsletter is addressed has moved on to another job, if your address has changed, if you are no longer my contact person or if any details are incorrect. JH

Interreg IV

This cross-border programme is delayed because of the British government's inability to agree on the administrative areas. Bids will not be accepted before 2007 and it will not get underway until much later in that year.

The Sacred Sussex bid will only include items of benefit to tourists, not ordinary repairs. If you have links with northern France, especially Normandy, and have a building or history project in mind, please get in touch. I am particularly interested in hearing from places of worship which are not Anglican, as these, by chance, formed our entire bid last time. We need to have new and innovative ideas to put together a successful bid.

More details were in the March, 2006 issue of *Pathways*.

Leader+ project ends

For the past three years, Sacred Sussex and churches in the Wealden and Rural Rother Partnership Area have benefited from European Union funding of nearly £38,000.

Part of this has been for project management, enabling me to visit all interested churches, in some cases more than once. We have also held the Welcome to the Church, Living Churchyards and Conducting Guided Tours courses in the area.

Grants have been available for items which are of benefit to those who visit our churches during the week. These include: toilets for the disabled, access for the disabled, guidebooks and leaflets for adults and children, signposts, notice boards, interpretation panels and lighting schemes. Two leaflets were produced, one for Wealden District and the other for 1066 Country.

All of the match funding has been in the form of volunteer hours, and this had a value of more than £120,000. Volunteer hours were rated according to the "value" of the work involved. Serving tea and opening and closing the church has a value of £5.00 per hour, while making arrangement for events, doing research for guidebooks has a value of £10.85, to give a few examples. Filling out timesheets is not exactly fun, so thank you to all those people who performed this task so that we could receive the full amount of the grant.

One of the targets of the project was 10,000 visitors to churches in the area. Of 49 churches, 11 completed returns, using numbers in their Visitors Book. Visitor numbers totalled more than 17,000 from these churches, which included numbers present at special events, but not worship services. It is estimated that one in 7 or 8 sign a book if it is available, so based on these figures, 150,000 people visit churches in this part of East Sussex every year. What an opportunity this presents!

**Special thanks to David Mason from Church House, who has done sterling work in revamping our website:
www.sacredsussex.org.**

Interreg IIIA News

Three churches which are involved in the Interreg IIIA Franco-British project have completed their repairs and improvements. They are All Saints, Iden, for restoration of a stained glass window and surrounding wall, All Saints, Beckley, for the re-shingling of the spire and All Souls, Eastbourne, for disabled access. Funding was 25% of the cost.

Work is well underway on the construction of a new parish room attached to St Mary's Barcombe, and the restoration of a wall at St Pancras, Arlington. Three new churches have asked to join the project. They are: St Mary, Northiam, St Dunstan, Mayfield and St John the Baptist, Sedlescombe.

The production of two bi-lingual leaflets is now underway. They are: The Arts & Crafts Movement and The Georgian Era. The French are producing three themed leaflets and all five will be included in a pocket and distributed on both sides of the Channel.

A big thank you to the choir of St George's Church, Kemp Town in Brighton, who attended the two-day "The Church as a Hive of Activity" event in Arry. They were treated like royalty, and sang four times, including the Sunday morning mass and an (unscheduled) wedding at midnight!

Sacred Places Festival

This event was held on May 6th and 7th and the publicity was provided through the Leader+ Programme for England. Eighteen churches took part.

Some churches were absolutely buzzing with visitors, while others had fewer than expected. Road repairs no doubt had an effect on numbers in some areas.

Art exhibitions, concerts and guided tours proved to be very popular. Most churches provided refreshments and as usual, homemade cakes and biscuits sold very quickly. A huge thank you to all churches which took part, who put in a considerable amount of work.

SACRED SUSSEX

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**I will be away from July 25th to August 17th
and from October 9th to October 24th. JH**

Capital Fundraising and Church Regeneration

The most valuable day I have spent in a long time was at a seminar on Capital Fundraising, led by Maggie Durran, Anglican priest and regular Church Times columnist. Topics covered included assessing the needs for additional resources, discovering outside sources of funding and understanding English Heritage requirements. Another session will be held at Church House, Hove, on Wednesday, September 27th. Don't miss it!

Maggie will also lead a seminar on Church Regeneration on Thursday, September 28th at St George's Church, Kemp Town, Brighton. The day will look at ways to re-use buildings and discuss the practicalities of managing major building projects.

For more information, contact Jennie

Recommended books by Maggie Durran:

1. The UK Church Fundraiser's Manual, 2003, £17.99
2. Making Church Buildings Work, 2004, £14.99
3. Regenerating Local Churches: mission-based strategies for transformation and growth, 2006, £14.99

All are published by Canterbury Press.

Included in this mailing is a flyer from the Sussex Archaeological Society (Sussex Past) for a conference to be held on Saturday, September 9th. I have attended their conferences for several years and they are always exciting and informative. This year's theme, "Reformation or Resistance: Change and Tradition in Sussex Churches" is of particular interest.

The Society has an excellent library in Lewes which is essential for anyone doing research on historical places in the two counties. For membership details (which also entitles you to free admission at several attractions) contact Lorna Gartside, Tel 01273 405737 or e-mail: members@sussexpast.co.uk.

CTA National Convention

How do we attract more visitors to our churches and sacred places? How do we help people to experience, enjoy and engage with this rich cultural heritage?

The Churches Tourism Association will hold its National Convention from Monday, 20th to Wednesday, 22nd November at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Entitled "Experience Sacred Britain", it is this year's definitive Church Tourism event. In the company of leaders in the field, it will examine current thinking and learn from recent research and practical case studies.

The packed programme offers interest for local church groups looking for ideas on attracting and welcoming visitors, as well as for tourism officers and heritage practitioners at local or national level. The aim is to encourage and enable new ways of working together that will celebrate the extraordinary heritage of our places of worship within the communities they serve.

Culture Minister David Lammy, Tom Wright from VisitBritain, the Bishop of Norwich and Frank Field, MP, Chairman of the Churches Conservation Trust, will take part in a keynote session and panel discussion. Other speakers and workshop leaders will span the range of interests involved in applying practical thinking about churches as well as part of the "destination experience".

18 workshops will be held at the convention. These include: Methodist Celebrations 2007, Storytelling and interpretation, Promoting your place of worship on a shoestring, Websites, Visiting graveyards and cemeteries, Security, Key factors in running a successful project, How to build and sustain partnerships, Access for all, Funding, and Working with other faiths.

A particular focus will be the launch of a new strategy for the promotion of tourism to places of worship, prepared with the support of VisitBritain and other tourism, heritage and church organisations.

Its aims are to:

- Increase the number of people who are able to visit and enjoy engaging with the cultural inheritance of Britain's churches and places of worship
- Achieve an inclusive approach, including more visitors from socially excluded backgrounds and emphasising multi-faith co-operation
- Attract increased appreciation of, and support for,
- maintaining the cultural heritage amongst visitors,
- tourism organisations and heritage agencies

Details of the convention can be found on the CTA website, www.churchestourismassociation.org or by contacting Verity Stroud at The Churches Conservation Trust, 1 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9EE, Tel: 020 7213 0660.

Newly published: Open for You: The Church, the Visitor and the Gospel

In his introduction, James Jones, Bishop of Liverpool, says, "There's a spiritual instinct in all of us. It comes alive from time to time. When it does, it often drives the person to a church". This book gives practical ideas for welcoming visitors, and is very much geared to teaching them the Christian faith through the medium of the building itself. *Open for You* by Paul Bond, Canterbury Press, 2006, £14.99. ISBN: 1-85311-714-5.