

Pathways

Volume 5 Issue 1

March 2006

Future Events

Welcome to the Church
Wednesday, March 29th
Diocesan Church House,
211 New Church Road,
Hove

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

Living Churchyards Training Day

Wednesday, May 24th
St Mary's Church,
Walberton (near Arundel)
10 am—4 pm
£10.00 includes pack

Writing a Church Guide

Diocesan Church House
211 New Church Road
Hove
Mondays 1:30—4:00 pm
May 15, May 22, June 5
£45.00

*Places on courses are limited.
Please contact me for
information and application
forms. J Hald*

This edition of Pathways is being distributed to those on the mailing list of the Mission & Renewal team in the Diocese of Chichester. If you already have a copy, pass it

Our bid for funding for an Open Places of Worship leaflet for Brighton and Hove was unsuccessful. Despite the short time available for applications for this new funding stream, "Faith Communities Capacity building Fund", it was oversubscribed by four times the funds available. We will reapply next year.

Sacred Places Festival

Eighteen churches are taking part in the Sacred Places Festival to be held on the week-end of May 6th and 7th in the WARR Partnership (Leader+) Area of East Sussex. The Leader+ programme which has provided funding for tourism initiatives for many churches in parts of Wealden District and the rural areas of Rother District, comes to an end in June.

Participating churches include:
Beckley, All Saints
Bodle Street Green, St John the Evangelist
Brede, St George
Burwash, St Bartholomew
Cross-in-Hand, St Bartholomew
Ewhurst Green, St James the Great
Iden, All Saints
Mayfield, St Dunstan
Rotherfield, St Denys
Rye, St Anthony of Padua
Rye, St Mary the Virgin
Sedlescombe, St John the Baptist
Stonegate, St Peter
Wadhurst, Sacred Heart
Waldron, All Saints
Warbleton, St Mary
Whatlington, St Mary Magdalene
Winchelsea, St Thomas of Canterbury

The churches are open both days of the Festival. A wide range of activities are taking place. Many are offering refreshments. Concerts, lectures and special services also feature in the festival programme.

Flower displays and art exhibitions will be held, as will guided tours, tower tours and events for children. Two places will have their parish registers available for perusal.

For the Festival programme, look at our website, www.sacredsussex.org.uk. Copies may be obtained by sending an sae to Sacred Sussex, 211 New Church Road, Hove, BN3 4ED.

The Festival covers only a small geographical area of Sussex. If you are interested in working towards making this an annual event, covering all of Sussex eventually, please get in touch.

Guidebook Course

Many churches would like to produce a modern, attractive guidebook but don't always have the local talent or knowledge needed. Or you may just need a boost to get started. The good news is that John Vigar has agreed to teach a course on writing a church guide.

John is a professional ecclesiastical historian, author of 12 books and over 40 church guides. He is Regional Development Manager for the Churches Conservation Trust, which has a number of churches in West Sussex and Brighton and Hove. He lectures across Europe on church history and architecture.

The course will be held in the afternoon, from 1:30—4:00 pm on Mondays, May 15th and 22nd and June 5th at Church House, Hove.

It is suitable for all those who wish to compile, or revise, a guidebook and will cover topics such as:

- *What to include*
- *The right format*
- *Where to find information.*

Please register for the course asap. We will need at least six participants to make it viable.

Volunteers

are the lifeblood of places of worship which wish to remain open and welcome visitors. For many years I thought that these had to be members of the congregation. However, in some rural parishes, members of the community have been asked to help and have started attending services, so I was obviously wrong! Members of the Civic Trust and NADFAS (National Association of Decorative & Fine Arts Societies) are often interested in churches and can be approached to act as stewards and welcomers. For details of local groups, contact your local library or visit the library services section of the East Sussex and West Sussex County Councils and Brighton & Hove websites.

SACRED SUSSEX

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Marketing Sacred Sites

Work is continuing on developing a national strategy for marketing sacred sites in Britain. Andrew Duff from Visit Britain has had his secondment to The Churches Conservation Trust extended through June.

A small group of us are looking to create a minimum standard for places of worship to be included in future marketing, which will include a directory and website. These include: regular opening hours, notices or signs about opening, clear interpretation within the building, and provision of guides and leaflets for both adults and children.

We hope that the website and directory will be available by mid-2007. One of the criteria for inclusion will be participation from a member of the clergy or laity in a "Welcome to the Church" course. If you have not yet sent someone on a course, please register now.

Living Churchyards Training Day

The Church & Countryside Group of the diocese has agreed to run the next training day at St Mary's Church, Walberton, which is near Arundel. We are fortunate to have an expert on lichens, Simon Davey, speaking. The Walberton churchyard project has been mentioned in a previous edition of Pathways, and Peter Brown will be talking to us about the project (which attracted more than £20,000 in lottery funding) and showing us around. The cost includes the training pack developed by the Living Churchyards project. It includes many useful brochures as well as information for developing a management plan.

Welcome to the Church

Is a course approved by Tourism South East and is intended for those churches who welcome visitors during the week. It focuses on who are visitors are, what they want, communicating with visitors and making their visit more interesting and enjoyable, and how to use the building to explain the faith. Many useful ideas can be gleaned.

Interreg News

Sacred Sussex, under the umbrella of the Diocese of Chichester, will receive grant funding of £185,250 from the European Union under the InterregIIIA programme. Most of this (£170,000) is for improvements and repairs to 12 churches. Two have already finished their projects—All Saints, Iden, for repairs to a wall and stained glass windows and All Saints, Beckley, for re-shingling of the spire. Work on the new parish room at St Mary's, Barcombe, will begin this month. It includes a toilet and kitchen and will be a great asset and will increase their capacity to welcome visitors.

Work is now being done on the bi-lingual themed leaflets, with our French partners. There will be five themed leaflets in a coloured pocket, three in France and two in Sussex. Our themes are the Arts & Crafts Movement and the Georgian Era, and will include nearby tourist attractions.

News has just been released about the successor to Interreg. It will run from 2007 to 2013. Whereas areas eligible for Interreg III funding were Kent, Medway, East Sussex and Brighton and Hove, this will be extended to the entire coast from Norfolk to Cornwall. Also, instead of partners from Nord, Pas-de-Calais, Seine-Maritime and Somme, the French area will be extended along the coast to Brittany.

We will be applying for further Interreg funding. This is a tourism and heritage project with emphasis on increasing visits to places of worship, improved use for cultural activities and lifelong learning opportunities. Therefore, ordinary repairs to places of worship will **not** be included in the bid.

Suggestions for projects that will be eligible include:

- Heating and lighting
- Reordering of interiors to provide meeting rooms
- Interpretation panels
- Disabled access
- Provision of kitchens and toilets
- Visitors' areas and other amenities for visitors

Work will shortly begin on the bid. If you would like to register your interest in receiving funding, please get in touch immediately with your plans, ideas and costings. The programme will be larger than InterregIIIA, will more than 300 million euros available.

Only places of worship registered with Sacred Sussex and which are open regularly during the week are eligible. In addition, you must have a link (ancient or modern) with northern France or a strong desire to develop one. Attendance at a "Welcome to the Church" course is mandatory for churches applying for funding. Places of worship from world faiths are also most welcome to apply.

Membership in Sacred Sussex

Sacred Sussex is the multi-faith tourism initiative of the Diocese of Chichester, which covers East and West Sussex and Brighton and Hove. More than 350 places of worship have registered since the project began in January 2002. Registration is free but an annual membership fee will be introduced later in the year. Contact the Development Officer for the necessary forms.