

Shoreline

The Church of the Good Shepherd

Shoreham Beach

Autumn 2023

50p





Church of the Good Shepherd

Sundays

8.00am Holy Communion in church .

10.00am Parish Communion in church.

Also available live-streamed on Facebook and YouTube.

On the first Sunday of most months there is an all age service at 10am and a Taizé healing service at 6pm

Tuesdays

9.30am Holy Communion in church.

Wednesdays

6.00pm Celtic Evening Prayer on Zoom.

Saturday

8.00am Morning Meditation — *also on Zoom.*

The service on **Sunday** is followed by fellowship in the church hall.

See the church website for details:

<https://www.goodshepherdshorehambeach.org.uk>

First Thoughts: Meaningful Moments

Rev'd Andrew suggests that a focus on making the most of individual moments of connection is both good for us, and brings us closer to God.



I had a conversation with a fellow priest recently about how, if at all, it is possible to measure ‘success’ in ministry. She is someone with a great deal of wisdom and a breadth of experience. I sensed that, like me, she isn’t someone who sees ‘bums on seats’ on a Sunday as an end in itself. What, I wondered, was a richer way of envisaging our goals and aspirations for a parish church?

After giving this question a few moments’ thought, she answered confidently: ‘meaningful moments’.

Our goal, she went on to explain, should be to facilitate meaningful connections with those we encounter. Getting people across the threshold of the church building is only part of this task (and, indeed, in some cases the connections might be better formed outside the church building!). What matters is the quality and depth of human connection.

This struck me as a very wise answer. Having recently finished a busy run of baptisms, weddings, and funerals – events when I am invited into people’s

lives for a fleeting moment – I have been struck by the possibility of intimacy and trust in even the briefest encounters. Often, it's difficult to pin down exactly why a particular encounter feels meaningful, but you know it when it's happened. There's something about being present at moments of great sorrow and joy that enables a connection to be forged.

Cultivating meaningful moments

Of course, life cannot be lived at this level of intensity all the time. But it is possible for all of us, I think, to seek out and cultivate more 'meaningful moments' in our lives. These might be times when we venture to show a greater level of honesty and vulnerability than is customary. Or it could be a time when we intentionally slow down and pay attention to those around us, perhaps holding back our instinctive human tendency to fill silence and stillness with noise and conversation.

As a Christian priest, I am interested in these moments not just because of their positive impact on human wellbeing – which seems clear to me – but also because of their capacity to disclose the presence of God. Rightly



or wrongly, I cannot help but feel that the connection between two human beings in genuine vulnerability and love tends to disclose an 'other' presence – a witness, companion or transcendent source – that fills out the meaning of 'God' for me. This is not to reduce God to human experience, but rather to emphasise that God reveals himself within human experience just as surely as he reveals himself within Scripture or the Sacraments.

Perhaps you will disagree with me on this, or perhaps what I have written here will seem wildly disconnected from the day-to-day reality of our parish life! But if so, maybe you could come and share your thoughts with me over a cup of tea? Who knows, we might find ourselves enjoying a 'meaningful moment' of our own!

Rev'd Andrew

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Greenbelt at 50

Rev'd Jane reports from the 50th anniversary edition of Greenbelt, the annual Christian music festival.

‘Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday dear Greenbelt, happy birthday to you!’

These were the words we sang at the beginning of a talk by John Bell at Greenbelt, an annual Christian festival of ‘artistry, activism and belief’ that is now 50 years old. John Bell, who is a well-known hymn writer and member of the Iona Community, talked about sin – or more specifically how a fixation on sin in our worship is bad theology, bad psychology and demeans our being. It was an encouraging start to the August bank holiday weekend and a festival that my husband and I have been attending for the past 20 years; first taking three small children in tow, then three teenage children, now just the two of us, and one small tent. The festival meets in the beautiful, landscaped grounds of Boughton House, a grand country house near Kettering in Northamptonshire, with a lake and mature trees, lit cheerfully with coloured lights in the evening.

Greenbelt never fails to inspire me, as it offers a joyful vision of a hopeful and progressive Christian faith, welcoming

all, regardless of ethnicity, gender, religion, sexuality, disability, or background.

It is a vibrant and creative experience, that manages to be both fun and very serious. It is always committed to the common good and building God’s kingdom here on earth. The programme was many and varied, with talks, discussions, music, worship, singing, crafts and activities for children and young people.

There is never time to do all the things I’d like to at Greenbelt, and sometimes tough choices must be made. Do I go to listen to Gordon Brown talk about how, as Christians, we have a moral duty to address rising poverty? Or should I go to the panel discussion that advocates for a reduction in car use? In the end, I opted for the latter and learnt about all the reasons why it is so hard to wean ourselves off the use of the car, and how we have become ‘car brained’. Cambridge is now the country’s leading city for walking and cycling and gives us hope that change is possible.

In the talks there was a particular focus this year on the climate crisis,

the anti-poverty movement and the ethics of artificial intelligence. Some highlights for me included a talk by Ann Pettifor, a political economist, who argued passionately about the problems we face because of unregulated credit in the global financial system. 'Our system is based entirely on usury' she said. 'We need an eleventh commandment: thou shalt not commit usury. It's in Leviticus, but we forget this.'



I also joined some HeartEdge gatherings and networked with other church leaders. HeartEdge has come out of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, and supports the broad church to innovate, grow and be at the heart of their communities. Revd Sam Wells confidently assured us that God gives the church everything it needs to grow, and that Jesus takes on scarcity and transforms it into abundance.

Christian Aid is a longstanding partner of Greenbelt. This year it was promoting a 'Loss and Damage

Campaign', calling on the most polluting companies and countries to pay for the damage we have caused to the communities experiencing the worst effects of the climate crisis. I picked up information to share back in the parish.

'Do robots have souls?' This was one of the intriguing questions raised at a panel discussion looking at the dystopian prophecies regarding the arrival of AI. 'Humans don't have the power to give a soul, only God can do



that,' said Eve Poole, writer about ethics and leadership.

There was also time to relax and listen to music. I especially enjoyed sitting in the sunshine listening to Canadian singer-songwriter Bruce Cockburn on the main stage: veteran musician, Christian and social activist. Arthritis made his guitar playing more difficult, but he had adapted his music to make it easier on his ageing fingers, and he got enthusiastic applause.

The big outdoor communion service on Sunday morning explored the themes of thanks, sharing and giving, and many children were involved in its delivery. There was an imaginative

collective prayer idea involving coloured flowers, that I made a mental note to duplicate at the Good Shepherd all-age at some point!

At the end of the weekend there was the hard physical slog, taking down the tent and humping everything back to the car. But it had all been worth it – despite going without a shower and the horror of the portaloos. On the journey home, my husband John and I shared all the blessings we had received during this anniversary birthday weekend and agreed that Greenbelt will sustain us for another year and that we are glad, age 50, it still exists.

Rev'd Jane

Christmas Fayre

SATURDAY

25

NOVEMBER

11AM - 3PM

- *CAKES* CRAFTS* HAMPER* RAFFLE*
- *CHRISTMAS CARDS* BOOKS*
- *CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA*
- *SANTA'S GROTTO*



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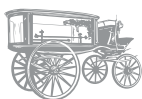
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Calling all knitters

Thank you to all who have knitted hats scarves and gloves in the past.

Now that autumn has arrived it you feel like carrying on, or if anyone else would like to join, I will be sending some more to the Mission again at Christmas, so will be collecting between now and then.



Thank you so much.

Caroline

SBRA WINTER BEACH CLEANS

Nov 25th

Ferry Road entrance, BN43 5RA
10.30am -12.30pm

Christmas Dec 28th

Shoreham Fort BN43 5HY
11am - 12.30pm
(Refreshments available after this one)

ALL WELCOME

Please bring gloves if possible and wear stout footwear suitable for the shingle

Posada is back!

An old advent tradition returns to the church, after it was dropped during the pandemic.



Once again, we will be celebrating Posada at the Church of the Good Shepherd, during the weeks leading up to Christmas.

On Advent Sunday 3rd December 2023 small Nativity Sets will set off on their journey around homes in our parish and neighbourhood, where the Holy Family figures will be welcomed for two nights. A special place will be prepared, a candle will be lit and prayers will be said.

After two nights the Holy Family figures will be carried to another home. This will continue until



Christmas when the Nativity Sets will be returned to church.

The Posada tradition originates in Mexico. The word means a 'place to stay'.

If you would like to be part of the 'Posada' celebration this year, please sign up on one of the lists at church. These will be available early to mid-November.

Jenny Stride

Vigil of Hope

for the UN Climate Change
Conference (COP28)

Sunday 26th November

3pm-4pm

Followed by refreshments

**Silence, reflections,
music from Richard Durrant, song
with the Gathering Light singers**



Church of the
Good Shepherd

Kings Walk, Shoreham Beach

Summer's End

Summer merges into Autumn,
shorts exchanged for trousers,
flip flops for trainers.
In the early mornings
There's a nip in the air
on Shoreham Beach.

The sea temperature rises
but the lure to plunge in fades
as the air temperature falls.
Hardy souls in wet suits
swim through October
and on into winter
Shivering into their dry robes.

We cling to summer
as to dreams on waking,
catching opportunities
for picnics or barbecues,
sheltering near beach huts,
or behind windbreaks

Labyrinths on the sand,
The Sand Dance
End of term parties
Have all taken place
Now we make way for Bonfire Night
and Christmas Fayres
Buckets and spades are put away
Then wait until spring comes round again.

Caroline Hansen

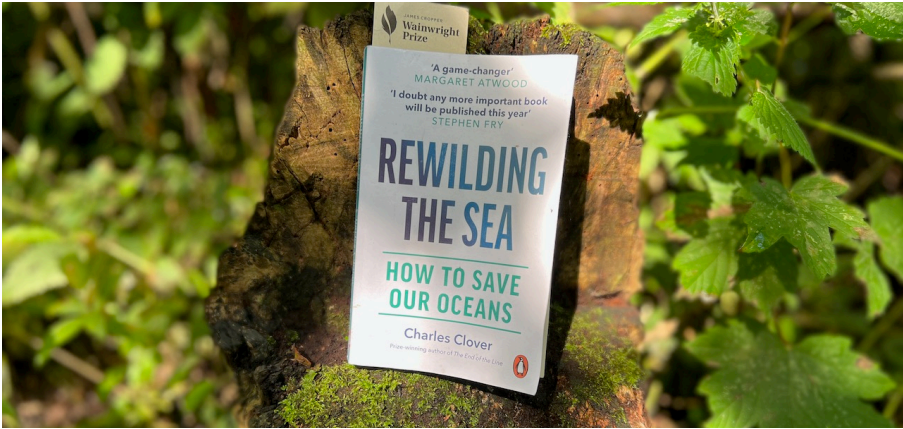
Harvest Lunch

*Moments from our popular Harvest Lunch, held on October 1st.
Photos by Martin Devereaux*





Book Review: Rewilding the Sea



It's always a pleasant surprise to encounter Shoreham unexpectedly in a book. I once read a murder mystery where the Red Lion up by St Nics turned out to be a key location, for example. But it's even better when the reference is both positive, and one the church is familiar with: the Sussex Kelp Restoration project, who gave a talk in the church a couple of years ago.

It's just one of many examples through the book of people acting to redress the damage we've done as a species. The ecological harm in the ocean is hidden away from us day-to-day, but can have a huge impact. It can ruin the income of small, local fishing fleets. And the

habitat loss can put whole ecosystems at risk; ecosystems that have the potential to be massive carbon stores.

This is a compelling and accessibly-written account of how a handful of people are having a global impact on climate for the better, just by encouraging others to leave small sections of the sea alone. It's a fascinating and ultimately optimistic book.

Adam

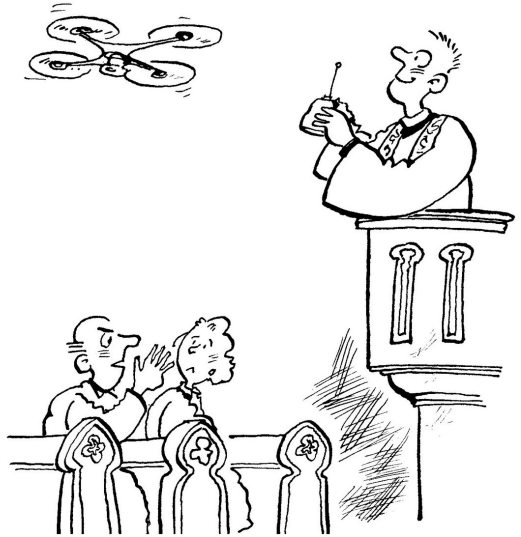
• [Rewilding The Sea: How To Save Our Oceans by Charles Clover](#) is published by Penguin Books



Rev'd Steve Emerson was licensed at the beginning of October by Bishop Ruth as the new incumbent for Maybridge and Tarring churches in the Worthing deanery.



The vicar got a little carried away with the church's new state-of-the-art PA system



...his constant droning from the pulpit is really getting on my nerves!

Life at the Beachy Head Chaplaincy

Shoreham National Watchkeeper Geoff Carr shares his experience as a new member of the Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, a search and rescue charity – that seeks to save lives at Beachy Head.

Sharing a purpose-built Multi Agency Building (MAB) with both HM Coastguard and Sussex Police, the BHCT is based next to the Beachy Head pub. We patrol the 4.5-mile stretch of Beachy Head, by car and on foot, from Birling Gap in the west to the edge of Eastbourne in the east.

Our role is to locate people in crisis and do our best to get them to a place of safety, and then hand them over to other services, so they can get the help they need.

As well as engaging with people we meet on our patrols, a lot of our time is often spent working closely with Sussex Police, responding to emergency calls to locate people at risk.

As you would expect, there is a thorough training process before being let out on the loose. The first few months are a combination of classroom-based and mentored practical training, followed by a

carefully supervised 3-month probationary period, before a final assessment.

The training is wide-ranging. This includes the practical equipment skills required (thankfully Coastwatch had fully prepared me for binocular searching and VHF use) but the thermal imaging camera and search light techniques for night searching were new. Other training covers the people interaction aspects (once we have found them) from spotting behaviour that could be a sign of potential distress, to conversation techniques to again determine whether people have sadly come to Beachy Head to harm themselves. There is also negotiation skills training, and other practical issues such as how to position yourselves when engaging with someone, especially in the often challenging conditions and weather.

There are currently 24 chaplains in the team; 6 full/part-time paid staff and 18 volunteers. In pairs, we cover



the hours of 9.00 am to midnight every day of the year, broken down into three 5-hour shifts each day. Most of the volunteer team do one or two shifts per week, and the employed staff spend time on logistics and administration, as well as the patrols.

The BHCT website notes: “Our search and rescue chaplains are Christians from local churches, and although we reach out with the love of God, we never impose our faith on the people we seek to help. We believe that by receiving skilled crisis intervention support at their time of crisis, people in suicidal distress can be awakened to the hope that there are other ways forward to address the problems they face.”

People end up in crisis for all sorts of reasons and if we can help them to make a different choice today, then they have a chance to be able to make different choices tomorrow. The charity is funded entirely by donations from supporters and the public, and since 2004 they have responded to over 13,500 incidents, intervening with over 600 people in 2022 alone.

After spending 3 months in a temporary portacabin this Spring while building work was going on, we moved back into a fantastic extended and refurbished building in July, funded by Sussex Police, which has been a huge blessing. We now have far more comfortable facilities to deal with people when we can get them back to the MAB. With the extra space, we no longer

need to have people in our patrol cars when there is more than one incident ongoing.

As many of you will know, Beachy Head is a truly wonderful place with breathtaking scenery and ever-changing views with the light of the day. It is a very popular visitor spot for overseas tourists, school trips, uk day trippers and locals alike, all enjoying their time there.

However, as we all know from monitoring the radios whilst on our watches, there is sadly another aspect alongside this with people there who are at their lowest ebb.

Until starting with the BHCT, I had never made a 999 call to the police, but am now practically on first name terms with the call operators. It has been incredibly impressive to see first hand how professional and caring Sussex Police officers are in dealing with this aspect of their jobs.

Alongside the police, other services regularly involved at Beachy Head are the NHS Mental Health services, Coastguard rescue teams and helicopter, ambulance service, and Eastbourne RNLI.

Suicide is far-reaching, and we probably all know a family or friend who has been affected by this tragedy,

or have been affected ourselves, and the impact can last a lifetime. It is not always an easy subject to talk about, but hopefully this brief look at the workings of a group of people trying to help those in crisis to find other alternatives when none may seem possible at that time, has been of benefit. Everyone struggles at various times and the more we can talk about the mental health burdens that we encounter as we go through life, and ask for help, the better the chances that times of crisis can be avoided.

There will be some lows as well as the wonderful highs in the role, but it is always a real privilege to be out walking Beachy Head, talking to people we meet, and whenever possible, being there to care at a time when someone might need it the most.

You can read more about the work of the BCHT at <https://bhct.org.uk>, and please do let me know if you have any questions.

In the meantime, please do keep the BHCT in your thoughts, as well as the staff and volunteers of the other agencies involved at Beachy Head.

Geoff Carr

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Christmas Concert

with Ukrainian
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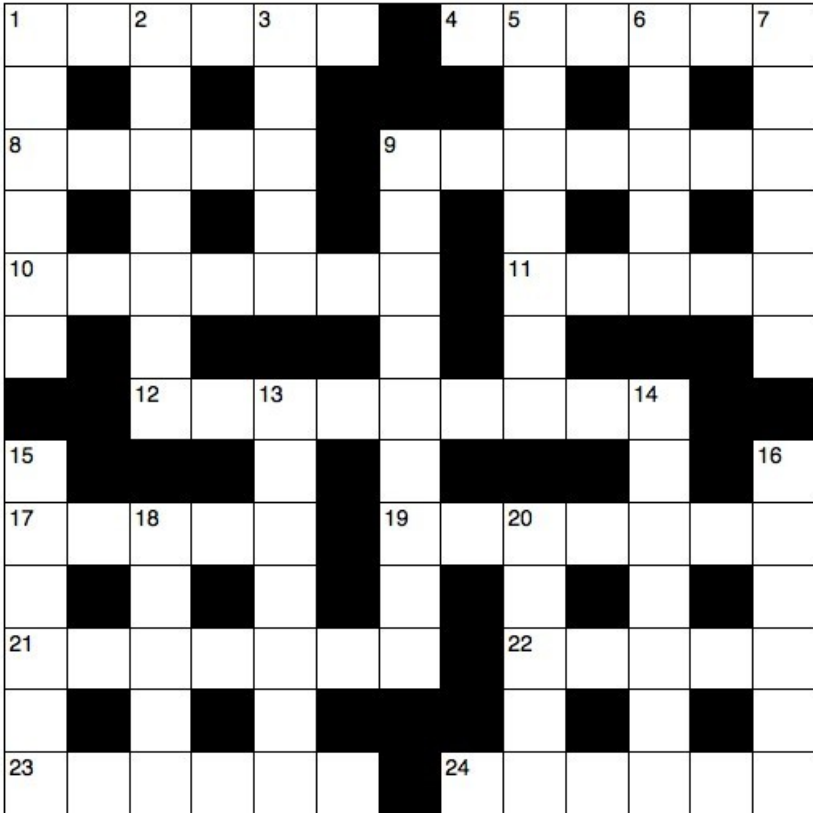
Photo: Daiga Ellaby

concert venue:



Church of the
Good Shepherd

Kings Walk, Shoreham Beach, BN43 5LG



Across

1 'The Lord Jesus... took bread, and when he had given — , he broke it' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (6)

4 'He has taken me to the banquet hall, and his — over me is love' (Song of Songs 2:4) (6)

8 Surrey town that hosts the National Christian Resources Exhibition (5)

9 Also known as Abednego (Daniel 1:7) (7)

10 Liken (Isaiah 40:18) (7)

11 A son of Etam, descendant of Judah (1 Chronicles 4:3) (5)

12 A part of the temple where the blood of a young bull was to be smeared (Ezekiel 45:19) (9)

17 'They make many promises, take false — and make agreements' (Hosea 10:4) (5)

19 Roman province to which Paul returned after evangelizing it on his first missionary journey (Acts 16:6) (7)

21 Material used to make baby Moses' basket (Exodus 2:3) (7)

22 'And feeble as — , in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail' (5)

23 'The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep — to his voice' (John10:3) (6)

24 Stalk carrying the sponge of wine vinegar given to Christ on the cross (John 19:29) (6)

Down

1 Elijah dug one round the altar he built on Mount Carmel and filled it with water (1 Kings 18:32) (6)

2 'I am not — of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes' (Romans 1:16) (7)

3 Buddhist term relating to belief in reincarnation (5)

5 Damascus disciple who, at God's command, restored the sight of the blinded Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:12) (7)

6 and 16 Horses: their sound (Jeremiah 50:11) (5) and their gait (Joel 2:4) (6)

7 A three (anag.) (6)

9 Athenian council addressed memorably by Paul (Acts 17:22) (9)

13 Abide by (Galatians 3:5) (7)

14 Persian princes (Daniel 3:2) (7)

15 Force (Galatians 6:12) (6)

16 See 6 Down (6)

18 Paste (anag.) (5)

20 How the cedars of Lebanon are described (Isaiah 2:13) (5)

*For answers to this crossword — see
page 25.*

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Dementia-Friendly Church

CoGS recently became the first Anglican Church in Adur to become an accredited dementia -friendly church.

Janice Langley who leads the Adur Dementia Friendly Community Group came to the church of the Good Shepherd Shoreham Beach last Sunday 22nd October to present us with our certificate as a Dementia Friendly Church.

To attain this we made all our signage very clear, ensured we did not have black mats by doors or shiny floors which are confusing to may living with Dementia.

Our PCC will ensure that the needs of those with dementia will be considered in future decisions. We also held a very successful awareness session earlier this year.

There was a lot of interest in our information stand in the Church hall at coffee time after the 10am Eucharist. One couple visiting from Gloucestershire took back



information, hoping to make their church Dementia Friendly.

Southwick Methodist church and Shoreham Free church have also been recognised as Dementia Friendly but COGS are the first Anglican church in Adur to receive their certificate.

Blessings,
Sheila Powell
Church of the Good Shepherd
Dementia representative



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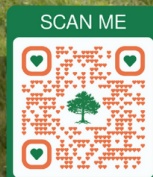
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Shoreline

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ShoreLine is the parish magazine of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Shoreham Beach and is provided as a service to the community and the congregation. The church is part of the Church of England's Diocese of Chichester and is also part of the world-wide Anglican Communion. If you would like further information on the Church of England and its beliefs, please use the 'Useful Links' on the back cover.

The magazine is also available as a PDF file on the church website: the address is on the back cover.

Any and all contributions are always welcome and should be sent to the Editor by the 15th of each month. Contributions should ideally be as a Word or rtf file. Please send to the editor's e-mail above. Who put the dip in the dip da dip da dip? Who was that man? I'd like to shake his hand!

For advertising requirements, please contact Chris and Richard on the above email address. Advertising copy deadline is the 20th of each month for inclusion the following month.



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The treasurer still had a trick up his sleeve

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Last Thoughts: Change Management



Change is hard. I wouldn't have expected the refurbishment of the Shell garage at the Saltings roundabout to have kicked off a storm of controversy on Facebook, but perhaps I should have known better by now.

You see, they've taken away half the petrol pumps — and added eight rapid EV chargers instead. This is not a popular change with everyone.

But, like it or not, it is a harbinger of things to come. As the number of EVs on our roads grow (and yes, I drive one), and the number of petrol cars starts to decline, more garages will have to do what Shell have done — or perish. A transport infrastructure that has been stable throughout our lives is changing.

And it's unsettling.

I wonder if our predecessors a century ago felt the same about the winding down of the stables at a coaching inn, and the arrival of these new fangled "garages" and their "petrol pumps"?

Another change: the Perkins & Robbins garage opposite the station is to be redeveloped. It was, before it was a garage, the stables for the inn-turned-restaurant next door. But the garage has been there for as long as I've lived in Shoreham, and I'm not looking forward to it being gone.

While I hope this doesn't sound too clergy-ish, this sometimes reminds me of the story of my namesake and Eve. How often are we pushed out of some comfortable Eden unexpectedly: a lost job, a broken relationship or a beloved home? Even, perhaps, an unexpected garage refurb... But life *is* change, as my wife would tell you, possibly with a PowerPoint presentation and a formative assessment to follow.

Watching the little chap happily explore the area near the altar on a Sunday can't help but make me nostalgic for the days when my two were that small and inquisitive. But now my eldest is cycling four miles to secondary school. Change after change. Autumn is the season when change is most obvious.

And perhaps we are called not to resist change, but to do our best to shape it for the better. To use points of change to protect God's creation, and to improve the lot of our fellow creatures.

In the end, the world is transitory, but He is eternal.

Blimey. Bit deep. Note to self: don't drink whisky before writing the editorial.

Adam

Don't forget to visit our church website

www.goodshepherdshorehambeach.org.uk



Church of the Good
Shepherd,
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