

Finding Golden Cross Chapel

The chapel is very easy to find. Driving away from Hailsham on the A22 through Lower Dicker you will eventually see a large yellow sign with red lettering on the right hand side stating 'Golden Cross Chapel'. This is situated by Chapel House and at the head of the drive way leading down to the chapel where there is parking.



Copies of 'Selina of Sussex' will be available to buy at the reduced price of £10, (Publishers recommended price £13.99)

A reaction to the book from Ann in Wales:

"This afternoon I finally put 'Selina of Sussex' down, having read the book from cover to cover. What a page-turner! Len, you have a gift for storytelling and bringing people and their times to life. I loved the descriptions of the countryside and the way people farmed in those days. It was thrilling to read about the chapels / causes in Sussex and how the Lord met with the saints there, about Selina herself and how she blossomed spiritually and how she became such a helpmeet to her husband, about Eli's wrestling with his preaching and sermons, and I laughed out loud at the story of his flinging the hymnbook at the poor snorer! It makes me want to visit the places and try to envisage them as they were in her time. I feel as though I have got to know her as well as her family, and, as at the end of every good book, I miss the main characters. It must have been really hard work getting all the research done but I am sure that you derived a great deal of pleasure from recreating her life and times. I know I would. So thank you very much for bringing her alive to us today. 'Selina' now has pride of place amongst my favourite books on my bookshelf."

Leonard Holder,

in his book

"Selina of Sussex 1818-1886"

has brought 19th century Sussex to life for the ordinary reader.



On Saturday 10th November at 2.30pm

at

Golden Cross Chapel,

Lower Dicker, East Sussex BN27 4AN

Len Holder will speak about his book with particular emphasis on

The background and development of nonconformist worship in Sussex in the 19th century.



‘Selina of Sussex 1818-1886’

by Leonard Holder

Selina Page, née Westgate, was born in the small village of Ripe. In 1838 she married Eli Page of Arlington and the couple farmed Clifton Farm in the Camberlot Road, Dicker in 1838-1842 when they worshipped at what is now the Golden Cross Chapel where Eli’s parents and sister are buried.

Selina was the author’s grandfather’s grandmother and in writing the book, initially for the benefit of his grandchildren, Len researched considerably into 19th century Sussex, the countryside, farming methods, the general way of life and the history and development of non-conformist Christian faith which had spread through much of the county. Certainly a personal Christian faith played a major role in the life of this delightful couple and Eli felt God’s call to become a preacher and in 1868 pastor of the Strict Baptist Chapel in Mayfield. The book itself is not purely biographical as it appears in the form of an autobiography by Selina herself. Footnotes indicate the source of the many historical facts but this skeleton is brought to life for the reader through much imagination shaped by the author’s research into the farming methods, customs and thinking of the time.

More information about book on: www.holderfamilyheritage.com

The Saturday afternoon illustrated talk.

Golden Cross Chapel is a particularly suitable venue for this meeting as the parents of Selina’s husband, Richard and Elizabeth Page are buried in the graveyard beside the chapel. The wording on the tombstone is still readable and can be visited after the meeting.

In this power-point illustrated address, the author will concentrate on the historical background of his book with strong reference to the evangelical awakening in Sussex in the 18th century.

Four very interesting characters had a particular influence under God for the Christian way of life of Selina and Eli and thousands more in Sussex in the 19th century and this lecture will introduce us



to these; **Selina Countess of Huntingdon, 1707-1791** (*see picture*) after whom the heroine of the book is named, **George Gilbert, 1741-1827** born in Rotherfield and who was pastor of the Independent Chapel in Heathfield where Selina was baptised as a baby and who has been referred to as the ‘Apostle of Sussex’; **William Huntington 1745-1813**, born near Cranbrook and buried at Jireh Chapel, Lewes and finally **William**

Gadsby, 1773–1844, who preached at the opening of Zoar Chapel, Dicker in 1838.

Selina’s husband, Eli Page was not only a very successful farmer, firstly at Clifton Farm, Dicker, then at Limden Farm, Ticehurst and finally with sheep on the South Downs living at Perching Manor, Edburton. but he was also a nonconformist minister with considerable influence in Sussex. Feeling God’s call to preach he became firstly an itinerant preacher and then pastor of the Strict Baptist Church in Mayfield, 1868 until his death in 1896.