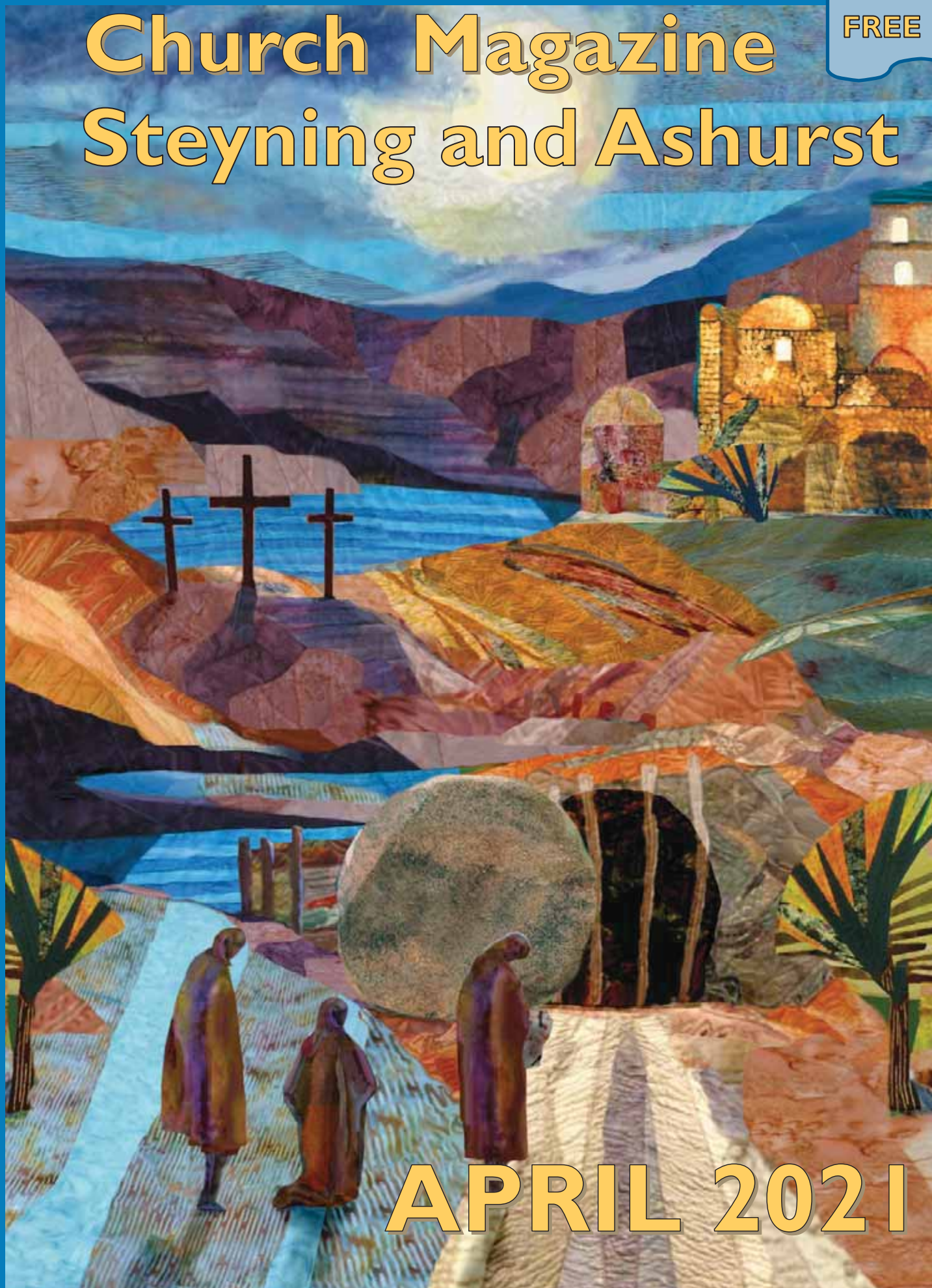


Church Magazine

Steyning and Ashurst

FREE



APRIL 2021

Steyning Parish Church,

1 Vicarage Lane, Steyning BN44 3YL

Vicar: The Revd Mark Heather LLB BA 879877
vicarofsteyning@gmail.com or rectorofashurst@gmail.com

Ordinand in Training: Caroline Armitage MA (Cantab.) 07789 915988
caroline@steyningparishchurch.org

At the time of writing all worship is taking place on line and St Andrew's & St Cuthman's remains locked to visitors as the rewiring and the installation of new lighting continues.

Everything should have changed by the time this magazine is published, with **public services planned to resume on Palm Sunday in Steyning and on Easter Day in Ashurst.**

If all goes to plan most of the lighting work in St Andrew's & St Cuthman's should be complete to allow usual daily opening from Holy Week onwards, although the contractors may need to return for some final jobs.

I remind you of **usual Sunday service times: 9:30am at Steyning and 10:30am at Ashurst.** Details will be confirmed through our weekly bulletin (see page 5 if you are not on the mailing list).

Fr Mark, Vicar of Steyning and Rector of Ashurst

Parish Office Address:

Penfold Hall, Church Street,

Steyning BN44 3YB

Tel: 813276

office@steyningparishchurch.org

www.steyningparishchurch.org

THE OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED BUT IS STAFFED REMOTELY

Post is being picked up and the telephone diverted to the

Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

After a really cold and wet January and February while we all slogged through Lockdown3, I imagine you were all as pleased as I have been to see the signs of Spring slowly emerging. Taking our daily exercise in the dry (sometimes) and watching the progression of snowdrops, then daffodils, then the first of the blossom, has somehow been a tangible sign of hope. And of course, as we read this we are slowly emerging from the restrictions of lockdown, have been able to gather once again for in-person services, and many of us are feeling that hope in our arms as we've received our vaccine jabs too.



But just as going into lockdown is hard, it's worth remembering that coming out may also be more difficult for us to handle than we might expect. Things will feel different. When Mary Magdalene first saw Jesus in the garden after the resurrection – she didn't recognise him. And we may feel we somehow don't recognise the world we are emerging into after a year of such huge social restriction. Socialising might feel exciting, but also a little bit daunting. In some ways I can see real parallels in this period of slow emergence from Lockdown as in the period post resurrection and pre-Pentecost. A time of joy, tempered with questions about what the future may hold.

But if there is one thing many of us have realised during this last, extraordinary, year, it's the importance of living fully 'in the moment'. And this moment of spring and rebirth is above all the moment of rebirth and resurrection for us as Christians. A time when we hold on to the promise of new life in Jesus, and can once again grasp hold of and live in that joy.

So, let me wish you all, on behalf of us all, a happy and blessed Easter season.

Caroline

Fr Mark, Caroline and the Churchwardens
wish you all
A Happy and Blessed Easter

FROM THE EDITOR: Firstly I would like to say Thank You to the PCC for their kind words in the March issue of the Church magazine. I do enjoy putting it all together with the immense help of the proofreaders...but there would be very little for us to do if you didn't send in your articles, so I do thank you too. Here is a reminder of where to send any thoughts or lovely things you find if you are sorting through papers etc.

Send to: steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

I do hope April will bring you joys, but especially I wish you all a Happy Easter.

Thank you .

CHRIST IS RISEN—HE IS RISEN INDEED—HALLELUJAH

THE EASTER ANTHEMS

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us: so let us celebrate the feast, not with the old leaven of corruption and wickedness: but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5.7b, 8

Christ once raised from the dead dies no more: death has no more dominion over him.

In dying he died to sin once for all: in living he lives to God.

See yourselves therefore as dead to sin: and alive to God in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6.9–11

Christ has been raised from the dead: the first fruits of those who sleep.

For as by man came death: by man has come also the resurrection of the dead;

for as in Adam all die: even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1 Corinthians 15.20–22

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now and shall be for ever.

Amen.



FR STEPHEN'S LICENCING

Stephen Mills was licensed as Priest in Charge of St Willfrid's in Chichester on 25th February

We offer him our many congratulations and prayers for his ministry there and at Bishop Luffa School.

PARISH REGISTERS

Helena Patricia ('Tricia') Hayes: Died 4 Feb 2021

Funeral 24 Feb 2021 HD Tribe Chapel, Shoreham

Rest eternal grant unto her O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon her.

Our love and prayers for all her family during this time.

PAUSE AND PRAY

Show the Love Blessing 2021

May our loving God,
who created the world and all
that is in it,
Inspire us to delight in our
beautiful home,
And to live in wonder, peace
and joy.

May our living God keep our
hearts turned to loving our
neighbour and to respecting
the creation we share.

May our merciful God help us
to live this week in goodness
and hope,
And fill us with God's peace.

Amen

*Ash Vale Chapel Poetry
Group*

Prayer for the waiting time

Give me the resolution to say
'No' to the good
So that I will be ready to give
my 'Yes' to the better.

Give me the courage to live
in the open-endedness of the
future

Without foreclosing the
mysterious work of your
Spirit in my haste or fear.

Give me the persistence to
stay in the wilderness of
unknowing
Until I am ready to receive
your call.

Give me the strength to keep
still and waiting
When all about me is pushing
towards movement and
activity and choice.

Give me the acceptance to

live these days in uneventful-
ness, simplicity and hidden-
ness,
Without craving excitement,
distraction or change.

Give me the grace to live in
the emptiness of not doing
Without the rewards of
achievement, fulfilment or
success.

Give me the wisdom to
discriminate between my
own impatience to move
forward, and your Spirit's
deep stirring of my spirit
when the time is right to
move.

Give me the faith to trust in
your obscurity,
The obedience to stay faithful
to your mystery
The courage to keep trust
with your inscrutability.

Nicola Slee

SUNDAY BULLETIN

The weekly Sunday bulletin sent from the Parish Office gives all the information about what is happening with services, local support etc, and how to access these. There is also the list of those needing our prayers. If you would like to receive the bulletin please contact:

office@steyningparishchurch.org or ring 01903 813276

or to add any new prayer requests please contact:

prayers@steyningparishchurch.org or ring 01903 813276

PRAYER DIARY FOR APRIL

1 April Passiontide Maundy Thursday

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your tender love towards the human race, sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of the resurrection; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

2 April Passiontide Good Friday

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit one God now and for ever.

3 April Passiontide Easter Eve

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptised into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

4 April Easter Day

Lord of all life and power, who through the mighty resurrection of your Son overcame the old order of sin and death to make all things new in him: grant that we, being dead to sin and alive to you in Jesus Christ, may reign with him in glory.

5-10 April Easter Week

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. God of life and love, whose Son was victorious over sin and death, make us alive with his life, that the whole world may resound with your praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

11 April The Second Sunday of Easter

18 April The Third Sunday of Easter

23 April George, Patron Saint of England

God of hosts, who so kindled the flame of love in the heart of your servant George that he bore witness to the risen Lord by his life and his death: give us the same faith and power of love that we who rejoice in his triumphs may come to share with him the fullness of the resurrection.

25 April The Fourth Sunday of Easter

26 April Mark the Evangelist

Almighty God, who enlightened your holy Church through the inspired witness of your evangelist Saint Mark: grant that we, being firmly grounded in the truth of the gospel, may be faithful to its teaching both in word and deed.

TAKING HEART - CARLY'S STORY

I was feeling pretty low again and I felt in a strange way compelled to go into the church though I wasn't expecting much ... what I liked was that there weren't that many people, no one was fussing and people seemed caught up in themselves and serious. I remembered what Maundy Thursday was about and I found the service really meaningful, and I suppose the betrayal by Judas and then the disappointment about the weakness of the disciples really connected with me. No one was being jolly or forcing others to be jolly; in fact it felt quite sad, which tuned in with my mood that evening. There was a foot-washing ceremony and everyone was invited up, but quite a few people looked uncomfortable and didn't move out of the pews. So I decided not to go at first, but then at the last minute I thought, 'Why not? I've nothing to lose and at the very least I'll have clean feet!'

They'd arranged it so that you had your feet washed, and then you in turn washed someone else's feet. It was just who you were next to in the queue, and thankfully I was next to this older woman. Strangely, I found myself feeling a bit tearful as she washed and dried my feet so carefully, it was like being a little girl again. At first I was embarrassed that she might find my feet disgusting, but she was completely focused on doing it in this gentle and observant way. I felt humbled by it, but also accepted for who I am. It had a weird – in a good way – effect on me, and so I then tried to do the same when it was my turn to wash her feet. It was very exposing, but it felt quite safe and it was all done in silence – no words, no social stuff and no expectations. And I went back on Good Friday – again time apart, but I still felt accepted; it was a breakthrough.

From *Taking Heart: Experiences of Spiritual Searching, Self-acceptance and Journeying to the Heart of Faith* by Fiona Gardner; Christian Alternative Books, Winchester, UK, 2021.

Selected by Larry Culliford.

CHRIST DIED AND IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD

Now *that's* really good news!

Suddenly we can take our own lives seriously, the good and the bad parts, because God has done it first! We are neither trapped inside our little culture and group identity, nor our private pain and hurts. We are people of the Big Picture and live inside a lovely cosmic egg of full meaning, where nothing is eliminated and all is used to bring us to life. Jesus taught us to call that the kingdom of God.

GOOD NEWS!



HE IS RISEN, HALLELUJAH!

According to the Gospel of Mark, on the morning of the Resurrection, Salome, Mary Magdalene and Mary the Mother of James woke up early. Their dear friend Jesus had died a gruesome death just three days before, and they wanted to keep the Jewish custom of laying spices in the tomb to eliminate the odours from the dead body.

On arrival, however, they were absolutely amazed to find that the stone covering the opening to the cave-like tomb was no longer over the entrance as it should have been, but was resting against the wall of the tomb. The three ran the last few yards to see what had happened, and then the horror struck - the body was gone - their friend had been taken - why? Who would do this? But why rob a tomb?

The Gospel of John chapter 20 tells of Mary going to the tomb, finding the stone moved to the side, and racing back to tell Simon and Peter that there was no body, just the linen cloths.

On going into the garden in shock and crying Mary wanted to be quiet and private, but then saw a young man standing there, and he called her by name - Mary. Just this one word, and Mary knows it is her Lord. This was indeed quite a dramatic revelation.

When Jesus talks to us he calls us by name, and sometimes he will come to us in a dramatic way, and sometimes he will come in a quieter more intimate way that is perhaps about a feeling inside us. A much more subtle conversation. It may be when we read something in the Bible, and there could be words that just won't go away, that keep on inside our head until we take note of them, and try to make sense of them for ourselves.

Then Mary did what so many of us would want to do - she reached out to go and hug or touch her friend. No, don't touch me, says Jesus. How this resonates with our lives today. We have learnt to move away from people rather than move in towards each other in friendship. Touch is so important, and is talked about in many instances in the Bible and is very much part of being alive and showing our care. I miss touch so much, and I know many people do too.

Jesus, who had been through so much, was now alive - he had risen from the dead and was waiting to continue his journey to His Father in heaven. He was in a very vulnerable place. We think of Jesus as being in communion with God, and therefore so strong, and one who could overcome the authorities, overcome the devil, overcome hunger, overcome death, but here he is being so loving and gentle and giving and so vulnerable.

Christ gives to us today the Resurrection, and so gives us the choice to say Yes to the greatest adventure of all time, or to turn away and say Not Today. We can choose to be part of the building up of His kingdom by allowing ourselves to worship, to study the Bible, to serve, to be vulnerable, to be part of an amazing church family. We can be open daily to being called by name, and to open our arms to others in His name; to be part of the adventure of faith that His Resurrection has opened up for us.

Hallelujah, He is risen today.

Chris Fitton

MONEY MATTERS

THANK YOU

The Finance Committee of the PCC met on 4 March to consider the Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 which will be presented at the Annual Church Meeting.

We wish to thank again everyone who helped meet the fundraising target for the rewiring and lighting scheme and are really grateful for the regular contributions which you have kept going since the start of the pandemic. Amazingly, the planned giving total received was 2.5% more than in 2019. In spite of the reduction in income from collections and wedding fees the General Fund deficit (£5,754) was similar to that predicted at the start of the year.

As we move forward towards 2022, giving would need to increase by 10% to cover our unavoidable clergy and running costs and local mission expenditure, otherwise we will have to take money from the Building Fund to cover the deficit.

Please have a word with [Len Warner \(01903 812752\)](tel:01903812752) if you would like to give regularly through the Parish Giving scheme, used by 39 members of the congregation and 45,000 people across the country. The scheme is very easy to use and the Gift Aid is collected for us and paid into the church's account each month.

Thank you again for your continued support.

John Edwards

THE LEPROSY MISSION

"The former prima ballerina Dame Darcey Bussell is championing a new campaign to rid Mozambique of leprosy and the prejudice attached to it. The campaign, Unconditional Appeal, launched by the Leprosy Mission, has been recognised by the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), which will **match all donations until 24 April**.

Dame Darcey first learned about the debilitating effects of leprosy in 2017,....and then during a family holiday in Mozambique she took two teenaged daughters to see the work of the Mission. "What I didn't expect was for this encounter to change me so much. The injustice experienced by so many people with leprosy has weighed heavy on my heart since."

The Unconditional Appeal is for cash to increase awareness of the disease, change attitudes, and improve access to treatment. Leprosy can be cured with an antibiotic that has been available since the 1980's, but it persists through lack of healthcare, awareness and age-old stigmatisation. The appeal will train and equip "Leprosy Changemakers" in Mozambique, recruited from health workers, traditional healers, religious leaders, public speakers and volunteers. Mozambique is the seventh most deprived country in the world. Almost one third of the population is malnourished, and literacy levels are low. Dame Darcey said, "By partnering with communities on the ground and shining a light on leprosy, we can make a desire to end this cruel disease a reality."

Paul Wilkinson from The Church Times

Donate through The Leprosy Mission. www.leprosymission.org.uk

REST ETERNAL GRANT THEM

Canon Tony Chanter RIP

Many of you will remember Tony Chanter who was a visiting preacher, and took services at Steyning Parish Church, and was such a great help during the last two interregnums. Both he and Yvonne loved visiting us and they were so impressed with the Church and community. Tony passed away on Ash Wednesday after a long battle with leukaemia which he bore with great fortitude and kept going well until the end. Tony trained as a teacher and was then ordained and started his ministry in Worthing over 50 years ago, becoming Chaplain to St. Andrew's School (a church of England School) and part time Curate of St. Andrew's Church, West Tarring. In some ways rather similar to the position Fr. Stephen has just taken up. He then moved on and held various church and teaching positions around the country and ended up in Guildford Diocese becoming Headmaster of Bishop Reindorp School, a large Church of England School, and then subsequently Diocesan Director of Education. In addition to his work in education he very much enjoyed Parish work helping to take services and give pastoral care.

On retirement to Rustington he continued assisting in Parishes, enjoying the pastoral contact. Tony will be sadly missed by many who came into contact with him during his ministry.

Bishop Jacob Ajetunmobi RIP

We have recently learnt of the death of Bishop Jacob who died in London. In the 1990's Jacob was our CMS mission link and at the time was the CMS Chaplain to the Nigerian Chaplaincy in London. Through this connection he was a frequent visitor to Steyning and, during the long interregnum before Canon Dr Paul Rampton's appointment as Vicar in 1995, he was invited to take and preach at some services. Through the offices of George Cockman he established a link with the Nigerian students at Steyning Grammar School. The connection continued until 1999 when he was consecrated as the first Bishop of Ibadan South in Nigeria, a position from which he retired in 2018. He leaves a widow, Dorcas, three children and five grandchildren.

Ron Ham RIP

Ron Ham, who died in February, first came to Sussex shortly before WW2 to stay with his uncle, Ron Vine, who had a wireless and electrical workshop in Storrington. This so fascinated the young Ron that he built his own radio receiver, and when he started work, it was in radio shops in Worthing. In 1954 Ron became manager in his uncle's business, and three years later he and another local man, Derek Knight, bought the shop. Television was fast becoming popular, so the business flourished. Ron sold his half of the business in the 1980s to carry on his hobby wireless interests, which included setting up the radio display at Amberley Museum, regularly writing for 'Practical Wireless' and other publications, and even building his own radio telescope, which was featured on the BBC's 'Tomorrow's World'. When Ron's health deteriorated, he went into Sussexdown, and his final residence was in Croft Meadow, where he was given home communion by Steyning Parish Church.

Ron is survived by his wife Joan, a noted local historian – Ron and Joan together were instrumental in setting up Storrington Museum in 2000.

Our love and prayers for the families of Tony, Jacob and Ron at this time.



LET THERE BE LIGHT

Nave Pendant - The Old Design



Screw fitting LED filament bulb

Would you like to own a piece of history from Steyning Parish Church?

This is possible by acquiring one of these 1930s Pendants that have been the main source of lighting in the Nave. The pendants, including all the fittings, are in good condition with attractive round brass cable guides to give it that classic look.

Because of their age we would suggest they need re-wiring and that the old bulb fitting is changed from bayonet to screw.

The design of these pendants lend themselves to using the filament LED bulbs (as shown above) giving off an elegant light.

A donation secures the purchase of one of these Pendants.

7 Available

1 Reserved

Enquires lang629@btinternet.com Phone: 816701.

Presently in use until Easter when they will be available to view.



James Lang

KYRIE

Creator God, we have turned our back on
sisters and brothers differently made in your
image:

Lord, have mercy.

God of justice, we have gained through
selfishness and greed, yesterday and today:

Christ, have mercy.

God revealed on the Mountain top, transform
us from sin and shame, fill us with your grace
and glory:

Lord, have mercy.

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins, and assure us of his eternal
love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

THE FRIENDS OF STEYNING PARISH CHURCH



The Friends of the Church Quiz took place on 13th February and seems to have been a great success. We had about 50 people involved either as competitors or just as donors and we raised a total of £501. As we only asked people for a donation of £5 each they must have donated at least twice that on average.

It was a very jolly evening, quite relaxed. Christine Aubrey hosted the Zoom session and David Kirkaldy was the Question Master. He supplied all the questions for the main section of the quiz and they were very ingenious and wide-ranging. We allowed people to contribute their scores if they felt like it and joint winners identified as scoring over 30 points – Jo and George Gordon.



After the main section of the Quiz supplied by David, I presented a set of picture questions about the Church itself – if anyone would like to try their hand at these please email me on sleigh1180@gmail.com.

People obviously loved seeing friends and acquaintances on Zoom and we were particularly pleased that three newcomers who had moved into Steyning just before the lockdown started took part and people really got involved in making them feel at home.

Sarah Leigh



WELL DONE!!

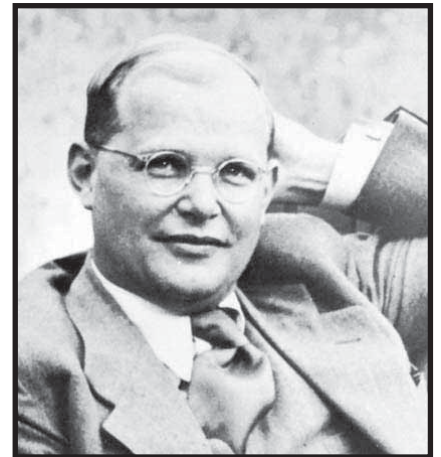
SAINT OF THE MONTH

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, LUTHERAN PASTOR & MARTYR, 1945

Bonhoeffer was born at Breslau in Poland in 1906. The family moved to Berlin in 1912 when his father became Professor of Psychiatry at Berlin University. He read theology at Tübingen and Berlin and was much influenced by the works of Karl Barth. He was ordained into the Lutheran Church and became an assistant pastor to a German speaking congregation in Barcelona.

After further study at the Union Theological Seminary in New York he became a lecturer in theology in Berlin in 1931. He was an outspoken opponent of Adolf Hitler and joined the Confessing Church which had formed in opposition to the infiltration and take-over of the German Lutheran Church by Nazi sympathisers. The Confessing Church tried to be the authentic voice of Christianity and to oppose anti-Semitism but Bonhoeffer was forced to leave Berlin and, in 1933, was appointed pastor to the German speaking congregation in London. It was whilst in England that he became friendly with George Bell, Bishop of Chichester.

At the outbreak of war, Bonhoeffer was in the United States but returned to Germany saying "I shall have no right to participate in the reconstruction of Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this time with my people." He became involved with the underground anti-Nazi movement and attempted to make contact with the British Government through his friend Bishop Bell. However, he was arrested by the Gestapo in 1943 and was later accused of having been involved in the 29th July Plot to assassinate Hitler.



Bonhoeffer was quickly tried and imprisoned at Tegel Prison in Berlin later being moved to Flossenberg concentration camp near the Czech border. As the Allied Forces approached the camp, Dietrich Bonhoeffer was tortured and hanged on 9th April 1945. On New Year's Day 1945 he had written a poem which included the following verse -

Should it be ours to drain the cup of grieving

Even to the dregs of pain at thy command

We will not falter, thankfully receiving

All that is given by thy loving hand.

Bonhoeffer Memorial

Westminster Abbey

USPG - CLIMATE AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE

We are in a time of climate and ecological emergency.

Human activity, primarily led by unsustainable lifestyles in the global north, has altered our planet. Species have become extinct, levels of pollution have increased, extreme storm events have intensified, sea levels have risen and weather patterns have become more unpredictable. Climate change impacts all areas of life on earth exacerbating risks to health, threatening food security and increasing the likelihood of conflict and the displacement of people.

Fundamentally, Climate change is an issue of justice disproportionately caused by a few and impacting the least culpable and the most vulnerable.

In 2015 the world came together in the Paris Agreement to adopt universal legally-binding targets to limit the impacts of climate change. Change is possible but ambitious and rapid action is needed.

The Bible is clear that God wants us to work for climate justice. The Anglican Communion's Fifth Mark of Mission reminds us that God longs for harmony in the whole of Creation, not just in the human family.

The Rt Revd Apimeleki Qiliho, Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Polynesia, shared: "We are at a critical juncture in our history... we have a responsibility to act... If we are of one mind, one heart and one spirit, we can challenge leaders and decision makers to work effectively to end the calamity that surely awaits us if we continue blindly down this road."

Prayer:

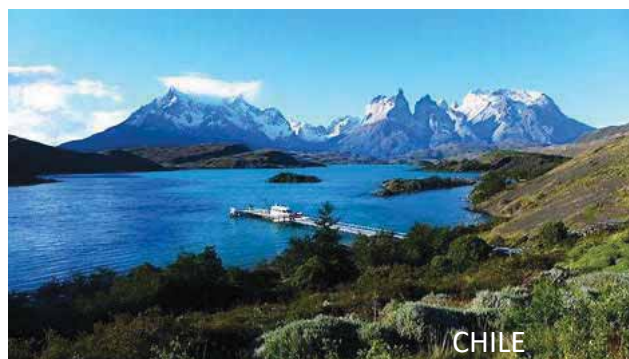
From the Latin American Council of Churches 3:
A Mapuche* Blessing

God of life, Mother of all, you renew creation.
Bring us peace and justice, 'balance' in the Mapuche sense:

balance and harmony for the earth,
balance and harmony for the peoples of the world,
balance and harmony for men and women,
balance and harmony between nature and ourselves and God.

(*Mapuche means 'people of the earth'. They are the aborigines living in the south of Chile and Argentina. Source: the Mapuche Pastoral Team, Santiago, Chile. From: The website Red de Liturgia, Latin American Council of Churches)

United Society Partners in the Gospel (USPG) Spring Newsletter



"Let everything you do be done in love." - 1 Corinthians 16:14.

NEW LIFE - NEW LAMBS

WAPPINGTHORN FLOCK

It's that time of year again – new life, new growth and perhaps this year more than ever, New Hope.



This year I have lambed fewer in number – ten ewes instead of our normal number of twenty-five to thirty because of the uncertainties of Covid. None of us knew what was around the corner. Once the ram had visited there would be no turning back!

I first started looking after sheep over twenty-five years ago once the children moved on from having horses and went off to university. Somebody had to eat the grass as that was going to keep growing!

I started off with Southdown sheep which seemed sensible as we are on the South Downs and now on the edge of the South Downs National Park, then moved on to Suffolks. They were a super breed but so large and heavy to handle. It used to take three of us to turn them over to trim their feet! Twenty years ago my brother was selling his flock of Black Welsh Mountain Sheep which in those days were a Rare Breed. We have now brought them out of that status into Minority Breed Status and secured their future as a Breed – which in itself is a success story.

Over the last twenty years I have built up my flock through careful genetic selection to promote the prominent characteristics of the breed so they are really true to type. The old



Welsh shepherds are very proud of that breed and one has to work hard to conform to their standards when up against them in showing competitions!

This breed is much more manageable for a 'lady' to handle as they are lighter in weight, very good mothers, lamb (fairly!) easily and yet hardy enough to survive in the moun-

tainous terrain of Wales. They have few foot problems and are moderately resistant to fly-strike. Of course they are affectionate and really every bit as intelligent as dogs! They have given us and the grandchildren much pleasure over the years and we have been lucky enough to win many championships at various County Shows.



Penny Warner

CREATION CARE SILVER AWARDS



In last month's magazine I wrote about the new Creation Care scheme for individual households. Bishop Ruth Bushyager, Bishop of Horsham, is urging as many of us as possible to take part. I am delighted to say that two households - [Mary Travers and Bill and Judie Thomson](#) - were first off the starting block and have each achieved a Silver Award. **So huge congratulations to them.**

The Aubrey household realised that we needed to catch up and show some leadership in this, so we also registered and managed to increase our initial Bronze award to Silver. We did this by investigating the resources that are provided in conjunction with some of the questions and discovered all sorts of ways of improving the way in which we can care for God's earth. One example of this was to twin our toilets with a project in a poor community (we chose one in Malawi) which enables families to build a basic toilet. We also used the link to palmoilscorecard.panda.org where we were able to check whether the brand of products that we use are committed to a responsible palm oil future, free from deforestation and destruction of nature.

The scheme covers seven areas of household life:

- Worship and prayer
- Home
- Garden
- Travel
- Food
- Possessions
- Community and global engagement

We are all learning about ways in which we can improve in each section and this scheme is both challenging and inspiring. Do have a go at <http://creationcare.org.uk> and if you have any ideas to share please pass them on to me at c.aubrey@mac.com and we will include them in future items in the magazine.

Christine Aubrey

**WELL DONE TO
MARY, JUDIE AND BILL
AND CHRISTINE AND TOM
WHO WILL BE NEXT?**

CALMING TRAFFIC IN STEYNING



Making the case for a 20MPH Zone

Last year, during the first lock down, we all enjoyed a bit of calm and peace on the roads. It took us back to a bygone era, for those of us old enough to remember, when there were fewer traffic accidents and less air and noise pollution from vehicles. It was safer for children to play on the streets and for everyone to cycle and walk on them. We were reminded that our streets were once perceived as a space that was shared, and not totally dominated by motor vehicles.

With this in mind, and with the knowledge that many of our local roads could be made safer and healthier, Steyning Parish Council convened a Working Party to consider how we could calm the traffic locally. Greening Steyning was invited to join, along with representatives from Bramber Parish Council, the District and County Councils, Steyning & District Business Chamber, and Steyning & District Community Partnership. Having looked at different options, the Working Party agreed that the most effective and affordable way to improve our roads for everyone was to introduce a 20 MPH speed limit for the whole of Steyning, and adjoining areas of Bramber.

Across the UK, over 20 million people live in local authorities that are adopting, or have adopted, a 20 MPH speed limit on their residential or urban streets. '20's Plenty', a national charity, which supports campaigns for the 20mph speed limit, has now gathered much evidence of the benefits of this to everyone. This is also reinforced by the World Health Organisation who endorse 20 MPH speed limit as best practice where motorised traffic mixes with pedestrians and cyclists. In those places where this limit has been established, there are fewer car accidents and fatalities, as well as less noise pollution. Air quality is improved as cars accelerate less to reach 20 MPH. But perhaps most importantly, people also perceive the roads as being safer and this has increased active travel by foot or bicycle across all ages, so there are health benefits too.

Any proposals for Steyning will need to be developed and approved by West Sussex County Council. Evidence of strong local backing for any scheme is essential, so a wide-ranging community consultation is being held.

Every household should have received by now a survey leaflet through the door asking for their views. You can fill this in and drop it off at the Post Office or Steyning Centre, or you can also respond online. The online version includes some important additional questions on future traffic calming measures like making the High Street a 'shared space'. It also asks for your views on how we can encourage cycling and walking, electric vehicle charging and public transport links.

Greening Steyning is right behind the idea of introducing a 20MPH Zone as we see it as a powerful first step in reclaiming our streets. We've launched a **"20's Plenty Campaign"** to rally public support and encourage a strong and supportive response to the public consultation. We hope you'll get behind the idea!

Dawn Daniel is Coordinator of Greening Steyning's Transport Action Group.

WHAT PEOPLE WRITE

All grief profoundly affects us, but this pandemic grief is so hard. Therefore, we need to support each other. We do this by following the guidelines, but we also do it by reaching out to each other with care and kindness.

*Justin Welby and Stephen Cottrell,
Archbishops of Canterbury and York*

We will not march back to what was but move to what will be:

A country that is bruised, but whole, benevolent but bold, fierce and free

We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we know our inaction and inertia will be the inheritance of the next generation.

Our blunders become their burdens

But one thing is certain:

If we merge mercy with might and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our children's birthright.

*Amanda Gorman, from her poem
"The Hill We Climb"
Recited at President Biden's inauguration*

Yesterday I opened the door to find an oddly shaped, A4-sized parcel in the porch. Opening it, I found a single sheet of plain paper, protected from creasing by a layer of cardboard. Also in the parcel was a small box and a note which read "Take heart, even flat things can be made beautiful in the hands of our Creator."

Inside the box was an origami dove: a reminder from a dear friend that, whether feeling flat, or flying high, we are in the hands of a loving God - something for us all to bear in mind as we navigate the choppy waters that may yet lie ahead.

*Elizabeth Figg
An ex QARANC officer, nurse and midwife, now a freelance writer.
Church Times*

How do we encourage people who might feel ashamed that they have been part of a system that has excluded people?

I would answer that with a verse from the Bible. 1 John 4:18 says "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment...." It's difficult to have conversations about things that we don't understand. But if we do things with an attitude and an approach that is full of love, there will always be grace. Then people can move out of this encompassing fear which actually keeps us separate.

Q & A with Liz Muir, Tearfund

Countdown

COUNTDOWN TO 2030



2030

2030 is one of the most important years in our history. It is the year by which we must have radically reduced our carbon emissions, or face devastating climate consequences.

2021 is a critical year as we countdown to 2030. As Sir David Attenborough, Greta Thunberg and others have made all too clear, this year needs to be a turning point if we are to get on top of the looming climate and ecological crisis.

In November, Glasgow is hosting the critical COP 26 conference, the biggest global summit ever held in the UK, where the world leaders are expected to strengthen their commitments to reducing carbon emissions. There is a strong global commitment to take massive action, and the major religions have acknowledged the seriousness of our predicament. In the words of the Archbishop of Canterbury:

"The crises of climate change and biodiversity loss are the most grave and existential we face as human beings, as a Church and as a global community."

Here in Steyning, there is a growing number of residents committed to doing something about these crises.

Our local churches are playing a vital role and we encourage you to attend our online event, **Countdown to 2030**, at 7.30pm on **Tuesday April 27**. The evening will be positive, engaging and inspiring, with contributions from a wide range of local speakers about what we are doing and how you can join our rapidly growing movement.

During our event, you will hear a series of short talks from our members about our local projects to reduce carbon emissions and improve the quality of our lives as well as the bigger picture and the state of our planet. We also have some exciting speakers who will outline their vision for our community.

You will learn about our nine year plan to make Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding one of the greenest, healthiest and happiest communities in the UK by 2030.

You can find out more and book a place at: www.greeningsteyning.org/2030countdown

So do join us and discover how you can play your part in protecting our precious local environment, and making our community a testament to what we can achieve when we come together for a shared vision.

JOIN THE ONLINE EVENT FOR COUNTDOWN 2030

TUESDAY APRIL 27 @ 7:30PM

BOOK VIA: www.greeningsteyning.org/2030countdown

Countdown



2030

MY GENERATION GAME

I find that it is most interesting to look back at one's family tree and in my instance the Ivatt records actually go back to 1595. It was exciting to find that there was a General Ivatt (died 1854) and of course as I may well have mentioned before the main claim to fame is the famous father and son pair of H. G. & H.A. Ivatt being designers in the remarkable age of steam. Equally fascinating was to find that there were two entries for Rectors in both 1680 and 1801. Now I would like to place more focus on my grandparents, who as the tale will reveal, paid a major part in my upbringing. My grandfather was a Londoner and grandmother came from the Isle of Wight and were both decidedly Edwardians and Victorian by nature. They were most instrumental in my upbringing owing to the early death of my mother when I was just six years of age. I have a sister who is two years younger than I am and this made things difficult for my father who travelled to work in London every day whilst giving us as much attention as would normally be the case.

My grandfather John, known as Jack, fought in World War One and was gassed on the Somme and spent the remaining years of his life with just one working lung. Grandma was just grandma with a very strong personality and wonderfully filled the role of our mother to a brilliant degree.

My grandparents moved out of London because their business property, an ironmongers, was demolished by one of the German's "doodlebugs". Grandma left the wreckage of the shop with the aid of an Air Raid Warden with a rice pudding under one arm and with the family cat under the other! There was much sadness also at that time as my father's brother, whom I never saw, lost his life in a naval action off Lands End in 1944. I have been to his grave in Penzance on more than one occasion. My father fought in World War Two with the Royal Artillery and I managed to get him to tell me many stories of "derring do" but Dad went on, because of his proficiency in nine languages, to interview German Prisoners of War. All this was before my time, but Dad died before he could receive his Civil Service job pension, at the age of 64.

When my father was a boy Grandpa Jack got him to do the Saturday deliveries from the ironmongers shop in North London. This usually entailed, amongst other building supplies, delivering a large bag of cement, using a tradesman's bicycle. My father later explained to me, "you try steering a bicycle round street corners with a heavy bag of cement in the front basket". What he meant was there was many an "incident" resulting in a burst bag and cement powder scattered around the highway. My dad elaborated that he was "in the doghouse" for the rest of the day as another bag had to be delivered in the van the next week. My father also lost popularity at home whilst eating an apple when doing his school homework and throwing the resultant core on top of a nearby large dresser. He told me that once grandma discovered what he was up to she chased him around the dining room table with a stick in her hand ready to give him a "hiding"! She never succeeded as he was faster than her.

So, I will now return to the tale of my grandparents, who had by now moved to Southbourne in the early 50s, where I achieved some fame by riding my first three-wheeler bike between the milkman's horse's legs, and subsequently they moved on to Felpham where they very often took my sister and me to the beach. One day, we were promptly told to leave the area by the Police, and go back up the shore without further delay as a German sea mine had been brought in with the tide and the army had been called in to detonate this, or at least render it safe. I distinctly recall a huge bang when it was exploded (no one was hurt) and then we moved to a separate beach to enjoy the rest of our day!

Continued from P20

These trips down to the coast were a key feature of our time with grandparents and after they moved to Bognor Regis into a new bungalow it was a well-rehearsed trip down to the beach almost daily, with folding chairs, bucket and spade and of course my sister and I enjoyed the inevitable ice-creams. Grandma then took us back for her afternoon nap, leaving grandpa in the kitchen by the range to read his library book to then doze off as well!

When I was about ten or twelve, I became interested in stamp collecting and my grandpa introduced me to one of his friends who was a keen philatelist. He was thrilled, and so was I, especially when this gentleman gave me a huge box of used world stamps for me to begin my basic stamp collecting efforts. You can imagine my excitement when one of the stamps in the box was a Penny Black! Subsequently I became the youngest member of the prestigious Horsham Stamp Club.

A further memory of these times was grandma's love of early television shows. She so admired Harry Secombe for his singing and Frankie Howerd for his comedy routines. As I had grown up a bit then, they were not my favourite programmes!

From time to time, Grandma's own mother (then in her 90s) used to come round for Sunday lunch, and if the weather was pleasant, great-grandma was put by the front gate in her bath chair with this tied securely. On one particular occasion there was quite a lot of shouting and people running about to such an extent that my grandma reached for grandpa Jack's World War II Reserve Police Constable truncheon and whistle and she then galloped out to see what all the commotion was. It seemed to me that the sight of a grandmother waving a truncheon did the trick to disperse the motley gathering of "Teddy Boys". Grandma asked her mother if she was alright, having watched the entire spectacle, and Great Grandma replied "wasn't that exciting!".

In conclusion, I can now look back and see how my grandparents' influence played a huge part in seeing my sister and me through the years and teaching us valuable lessons in life, to always be honest and true to yourself - and these values are something I will never forget and endeavour to always continue into my own generation.

Ian Ivatt

MERMAID'S TEARS

Sea Glass Treasure

Vessel (bottle) glass is worn by the power of the ocean (often the Atlantic) that has travelled to our pebbly shores. A piece of smooth glass will have been in the sea for over 100 years. The most common is bottle green and white. The most collectable is Georgian red denoting the old port side lamps carried on ships left from wrecks. Worn by the waves, recycled by the sea, sea glass is a product of both nature and sea. A homecoming celebration, given that glass is made by the sea!



Sara Bedford

LAUGHTER LINES



- “I know that Jesus liked Japanese food”. “How?”
“Because the Bible says: ‘He loves Miso’”.



- Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.



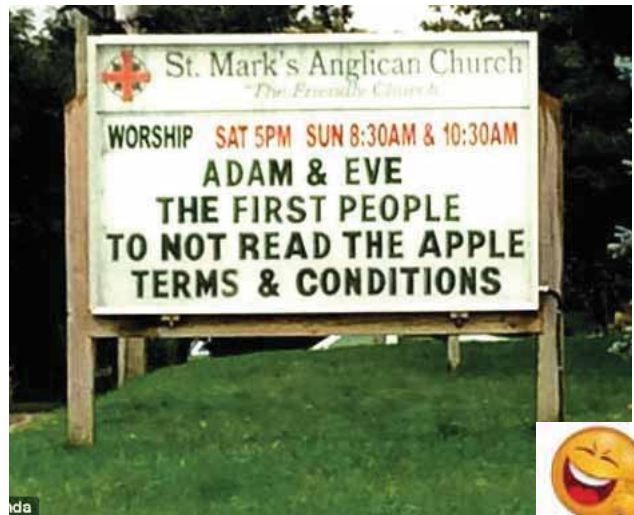
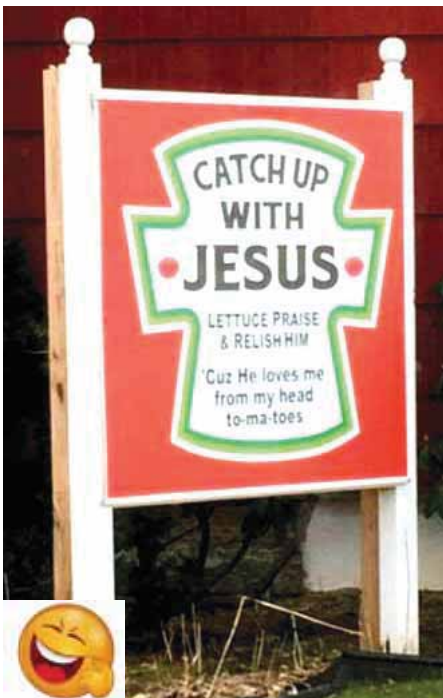
- A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.



- Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.
- The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

CHURCH

SIGNS SPOTTED.....



Hope you have enjoyed these, and thanks go to those who have sent them in to me - a few more next month.....

Do you have any comical quotes or photos for our laughter lines page?

Please send them in to me.

OUR SECOND PICNIC SNACK

2 crusty rolls (better if a day or two old)

150g cheddar grated, you may wish for more depending on the size of roll. Also you may wish to use whatever cheese you have available or a combination.

Filling of your choice e.g. ham (2 slices diced), mushrooms (8 diced), cooked onion, sliced tomatoes, cooked bacon, brie, cooked diced chicken (handful).



Method

1. Preheat your oven to 180 gas 6
2. Cut a small hole in the top of each roll. Keep the top you have just cut out to one side.
3. Carefully scrape out the middle of the roll. Around 75% of it. Make sure you don't put a hole in the sides or base of the roll otherwise your filling will leak. Use the inside of the roll as bread crumbs, pop into a food bag and freeze.
4. Stuff your rolls with the cheese and fillings of your choice.
5. Put the top back into the roll.
6. Wrap each roll in tin foil
7. Bake in the oven for 10 -15 minutes or until the cheese is melted.

8. Either remove from the tin foil and enjoy or pack in a Thermos picnic bag with your other picnic food and enjoy on your walk.

TO BE WITH YOU

We leave aside our shoes - our ambitions

Undo our watches - our timetable

Take off our glasses - our views

Unclip our pens - our work

Put down our keys - our security

To be alone with you, the only true God

After being with you

We take up our shoes to walk in your ways

Strap on our watches to live in your time

Put on our glasses to look at your world

Clip on our pens to write up your thoughts

Pick up our keys to open your doors.

Anon

GOD IS WITH US

No one suffers alone, for whatever form our sufferings take, God is with us and, in Christ, God suffers with us.

APRIL HOLY WEEK THOUGHTS: 1, 2 APRIL

Maundy Thursday 1 April

So much happened on this day, but I want to try to think of just one aspect to help my meditations. This is the day that we especially remember the Last Supper that Jesus shared with His disciples. Leonardo Da Vinci painted his very famous picture of The Last Supper, but I rather like this one by Duccio as it shows so clearly a disciple on Jesus' left leaning completely on Jesus and resting his head next to Jesus heart. In the Gospel of John we read of the beloved disciple who "reclined on the breast of Jesus" at the Last Supper [John 13:23]

How can we move closer to the heart of Jesus? How can we lean towards Him? When we pray with words and silence we then move our hearts towards the heart of Jesus, and so to the heart of God. God is then in our heart and so sharing our life and our way of life. This then will radically affect how we are with and think of others and especially how we are with, and for, those who need us most.



*The Last Supper by
Duccio 1308—1311*

Good Friday 2 April

Place a cross by your side. In your mind's eye walk towards the church and remember that it is built in the shape of a cross (Steyning Parish Church was an even larger cross when originally built). Know that as you walk the path you are walking towards the cross of Jesus and God's wondrous love for us.

Enter the church and you are entering right into the centre of the cross, enfolded by Jesus' outstretched arms and surrounded by His love. Such love, such forgiveness – beyond my comprehension – it causes me to tremble....

*1. Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they crucified my Lord?*

*2. Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?*

*3. Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Were you there when they pierced him in the side?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.*

Were you there when they pierced him in the side?

*4. Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when the sun refused to shine?*

*5. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?
Oh! Sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble,
tremble.
Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?*

African American Spiritual

UP FROM THE GRAVE HE AROSE

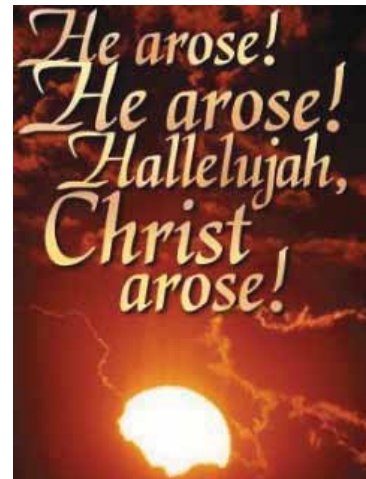
Low in the grave he lay, Jesus, my Saviour;
waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord.

*Up from the grave he arose,
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes.
he arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives for ever with his saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!*

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus, my Saviour;
vainly they seal the dead, Jesus, my Lord.
Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus, my Saviour;
he tore the bars away, Jesus, my Lord.

Robert Lowry (1874)

Robert S. Lowry (1826-1899) composed both text and tune of this Easter gospel hymn in 1874 while he was pastor of the First Baptist Church, Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. The hymn was published in *Brightest and Best* (1875), a church school songbook. The meditative stanzas contrast with its dramatic refrain, 'He arose!' which recalls for us the angel's announcement: 'He is not here; he has risen!' (Luke 24:6).

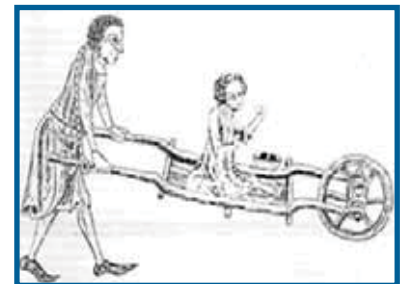


THE STEYNING SOCIETY

From **Monday 12 April**

we invite you to access the following talk via
www.steyningsociety.org.uk/talks

"Hilaire Belloc - Sussex Laureate"
by Kevin Newman



Kevin is a local historian, author and he advises on theatre and TV production.

The talk will be available to view until Sunday 16 May.

JUST FOR FUN

Quiz about the life of Jesus:

- 1 When Jesus went to raise Lazarus, who said "Let us go and die with him".
Thomas, Judas, Peter, James
- 2 Who said "Can anything good come from Nazareth"?
Nathanael, Bartholomew, Philip, Zaccheus
- 3 How old was Jesus when he began his public ministry?
20 25 30 35
- 4 At which feast did the 12 year old Jesus stay behind at the temple?
Pentecost The Passover Feast of Booths First Fruits
- 5 How many basketfuls of food were left over when Jesus fed the 5000?
4 12 20 26
- 6 How many days did Jesus spend in the wilderness when tempted by Satan?
10 20 30 40
- 7 What did Jesus do on Maundy Thursday to teach his disciples to serve others?
Broke Bread, Washed their feet, Cleaned their sandals, Taught them to pray
- 8 Finish the passage "Do not worry about....."
Today, The future, Tomorrow, The past
- 9 What does the word Messiah mean?
Saviour, God With Us, Anointed, Prince of Peace
- 10 Who said "A prophet is not without honour except in his own country"?
John the Baptist, Elijah, Jesus, Isaiah

Answers

1. Thomas; John 11:16 2. Nathanael; John 1:46 3. 30; Luke 3:23 4. The Passover
5. 12; Matthew 14:20 6. 40; Mark 1:3 7. Washed their feet; John 13:5
8. Tomorrow; Matthew 6:34 9. Anointed 10. Jesus; Matthew 13:57

ANAGRAM FOR APRIL

The anagram for April:

EASTER EGG

REMEMBER:

All words to have three or more letters, but only use each letter once

NO capitalised words, and NO plurals

I think there are lots of words if you **steer** your mind around all the letters!



Have fun, and I hope you also get an Easter Egg on Easter Day



PACT AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER



Petworth Area Churches Together (PACT) will hold its Spring Talk on
Friday April 16th 7.30 by Zoom.

PACT's Talk will be given by

Lord Dr (Michael) Hastings of Scarisbrick CBE,
Chancellor of Regent's University, London.

He will speak on the intriguing title

"The future we don't know"

The title sounds rather exciting given that the future for all of us is unknown!

He is also Professor of Leadership at the Stephen R. Covey Institute, Huntsman Business School, Utah State University, a Vice-President of UNICEF and Ambassador for Tearfund. Previously Head of Citizenship at KPMG International and the BBC's Head of Public Affairs, then Head of Corporate Responsibility.

All welcome. Free via ZOOM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86362967085?pwd=bEhhU0F0OS8zeEpzM001M1B WcVg5UT09>
Meeting ID: 863 6296 7085 Passcode: 707071.

More information from Geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com 01798 342151
and PACT website at <https://petworthareachurchestogether.com/>

INTO THE GARDEN IN APRIL.....



As a birth flower for April, the daisy is associated with purity and innocence.

April is the busiest time in the garden, there is so much to do at once but don't get into a panic.

Take a step at a time and try to stick to one job and you will get it all done. Most importantly enjoy the garden, soak up the spring sun and listen to the birds.

Make a note of any gaps to replant or other alterations. Here are some April tips.

- 1 Early April is a suitable time to prune *Hydrangea Macrophylla* (common hydrangea). With established hydrangeas prune down to bud or a pair of buds and cut out about a quarter of the older, more woody growth.
- 2 Tidy up tussock forming grasses with a shaping hair cut and cut back the last of the perennials such as *Penstemons* and *Salvias*.
- 3 Lavender shrubs need cutting back now to encourage new healthy growth but resist pruning hard into old wood. Give the plants a weekly liquid feed during the summer to encourage new growth.
- 4 This is the time to plant new evergreen trees and shrubs. Also a good time to move evergreen trees and shrubs, but remember to keep them well watered throughout the summer.
- 5 Start staking *Delphiniums* and tall perennials to protect against wind and heavy rain. Try to use something natural like hazel or silver birch pea sticks.
- 6 Divide *Primroses* and *Polyanthus* once they have finished flowering.
- 7 Apply a layer of mulch, such as well rotted manure, around your perennials, biennials, trees and shrubs.
- 8 Prune *Forsythia* as soon as they have finished flowering, cut back to strong young shoots.

Hope you enjoy the garden and witness God everywhere in it.

Robert Hill-Snook

IT WAS VERY GOOD

Loving God,

You saw everything that you had made – and it was very good.

We are awed by what we see that is still good but weep for what we have spoilt.

Give us the heart and will in our living and praying to restore all creation to the very good.

So we may show our love to you, the Lord of love. Amen

Revd. Linda Atkin

Imagine if we had to do it. Imagine that first thing every morning we had to stake a claim to our property by pulling on our dressing gowns, marching out onto our doorsteps, taking a deep breath and singing a song. Steyning & Ashurst would awaken to an a cappella cacophony of show tunes, power ballads and rock anthems pouring from porches and patios, backyards and balconies. And if you weren't out there, patrolling your property with a raspy rendition of 'Hey Jude', your neighbours would assume you'd gone and they'd muscle in on your property. If you overslept you'd wake to find Jeanette from two doors down screeching 'I Dreamed a Dream' on your doorstep and you'd have to see her off with your version of 'River Deep, Mountain High'.

Throughout April male birds are aggressively establishing their breeding territories. In the absence of bricks and barbed wire, their songs build the boundaries around their little bits of the Horsham district. It's vital they croon their songs every morning. After a day dodging cats, cars, windowpanes and sparrowhawks these stubborn Sinatras must inform their neighbours that they're still alive and still king of the hill, top of the heap. Yet to our ears this warzone of warbles

and whistles is a stirring celebration of the arrival of spring which fills our hearts with the promise of the summer to come. Bernstein, Britten, Beethoven and Brian Wilson rolled into one.

At the first hint of dawn, in the still, silent air, this free music festival begins. And what a line-up! The sweet vocal stylings of the robin start the show. Then the relaxed doo-be-doo-be-doo of the blackbird; the Sinatra of the dawn chorus. You could sit back and enjoy their performance as the night falls or in the wee small hours of the

morning. The symphony builds as the sun rises. We're joined by a supergroup: CSD&G (chaffinch, song thrush, dunnoek & great tit). Then the blackcap joins the avian opera, the first of our international superstars who has flown in from Africa to serenade us. And now here's the chiffchaff. Obviously influenced by Destiny's Child, this warbler "says his name / says his name" over and over. And over. Chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff-chiff-chaff. Then that little bird with the big attitude, The Wren, cranks it up. He opens his tiny beak and a five second warbling, rattling, trilling tantrum explodes from it. Like some heavy metal band with the Tasmanian Devil on lead vocals. These birds are sending out a clear message: if I've got enough spare time to stand around and sing then I must be fit and skilled at finding food. So, females flock to the lead singer – a familiar phenomenon (let's face it, Mick Jagger wouldn't have been half as popular with the ladies if he'd been on backing vocals).



Blackbird

By Roger Wilmshurst

EASTER DAY STORY FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

JOHN 20 1-18

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

Then the disciples went back to their homes, but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot. They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus. "Woman," he said, "why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?"

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him." Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'"

Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: "I have seen the Lord!" And she told them that he had said these things to her.