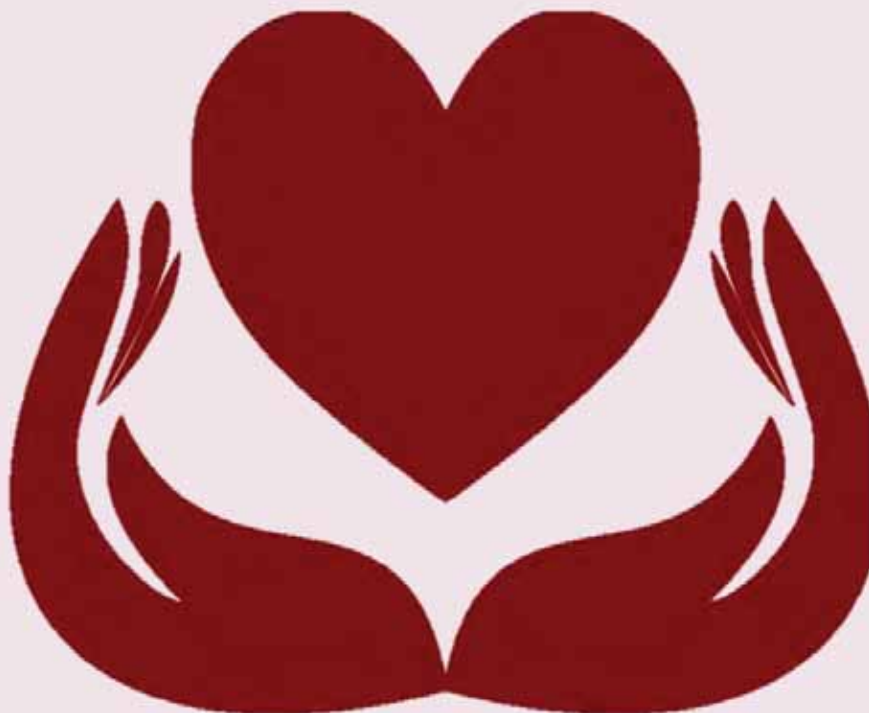


Steyning and Ashurst Church Magazine JUNE 2020



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Registered Charity Number: 1132913

**Steyning Parish Church,
1 Vicarage Lane, Steyning BN44 3YL**

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

Assistant Curate: The Revd Stephen Mills M.Th 950155
revstephenmills@hotmail.com

Steyning Parish Church will remain closed until government restrictions are lifted. Meanwhile we will respond to the call of our bishops to 'continue to pray, to love, to care for the vulnerable'.

At the time that this magazine went to press the government had announced its intention that meetings in places of worship could resume under 'Step 3' of its timetable for lifting Covid-19 social restrictions. On 11 May its recovery strategy document anticipated that this would not take place before 4 July at the earliest. Please join our email list to be kept informed of unfolding developments. (Contact The Parish Office with your details 01903 813276)

Meanwhile we are providing worship resources on our website, and by post for congregation members who are not on email – and expect to continue to provide these for the foreseeable future for those who are advised to stay at home for the protection of their health.

Fr Mark, Vicar of Steyning

Parish Office Address:

Penfold Hall, Church Street,

Steyning BN44 3YB

Tel: 813276

steyningparishchurch@gmail.com

www.steyningparishchurch.org

THE OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED BUT IS STAFFED REMOTELY

Post is being picked up and the telephone diverted to our

Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

FR STEPHEN WRITES



Greetings my dear sisters and brothers in Christ.

The 20th of May, just passed, was a special day for me, as it marked the second anniversary of my ordination to the Holy Priesthood, and what a memorable two years it has been journeying with the wonderful people of our parishes.

I am sure none of us could have predicted the current health crisis and the impact it would have on our daily lives. It saddened me that we were not able to gather in church to mark this occasion, but I am filled with joy knowing that we are still the church, and still connected through Christ.

It has been a personal goal of mine during lockdown to not put on too much weight. This has proved difficult as David now thinks he is Gordon Ramsay and has been cooking all manner of new tasty treats. Part of my new routine is to take my daily constitutional exercise with Mabel along the river Adur towards Shoreham from Bramber. A route, I am sure, that many of you are familiar with. I find this a peaceful walk and it provides me with a space to pray for our church, and all that is going on in the world now.

On one said walk, my eyes were drawn to the old ruins of the cement works. I imagined what sound must have filled its space at one time. The sounds of industry, people, production and transport. It currently stands in the former shadow of itself. As I observed its state of isolation and abandonment I was led to think of the church in its current state. Although our church is not derelict like the cement works is, there are some similarities. Our church buildings lie empty and unused, the sounds of singing, laughter and joy not currently heard. This saddened me, although I am fully aware that the church continues to exist, and that Christ is the glue that holds us together.

I continued to walk towards Shoreham and as I pondered further on the cement works, I noticed sitting majestically on a hill Lancing College Chapel. A most beautiful example of Gothic Revival architecture. From a distance on a hazy day it appeared mirage-like and to be floating above life and the noise from the nearby road. It was at this point I was reminded of a piece of scripture from the prophet Haggai 2:9, "The latter splendour of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts". I reflected further how the ruins of the cement works juxtaposed to the splendour of the college, and heard God whisper gently, "I will restore my church to its buildings and the sound will be even more beautiful than before".

It is in these gentle whisperings of God that we must take comfort at this time. This season of isolation will end, and we will be reunited as a church to worship in song and word once more. Just imagine that if you can, it will be better than before. I look forward eagerly to that time. Until then take care, stay safe and be assured of my prayers for you all.

Finally, in the words of Her Majesty the Queen, "We will meet our friends again. We will meet our family again. We will meet again".

Fr Stephen Mills Mth

FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the June edition of this Church magazine. It follows the lines of the May magazine mostly because I have again received articles from you that are a real joy to include, and will inspire and encourage as again we embrace and come to terms with change.

Please consider writing something yourself for next month - I would love to receive it. steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

Take care and stay safe.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE CHURCHWARDENS

THANK YOU..... As we write this in the fifth week of lockdown we are all struggling to cope with this strange way of life.

We could never have imagined anything quite like this in our life time, and people to whom I have spoken cannot remember a time like this since the second world war, and even in the war one could still have a hug with family and friends.

Support by the church and the community helping the people in isolation or house bound for any reason, has been fantastic.

Fr Mark, Fr Stephen and the other clergy in the parish have done a magnificent job keeping us informed and giving homilies and leading worship which has been extremely helpful.

Also there have been many involved in delivering Mothering Sunday flowers, Palm Crosses, Magazines and shopping etc.

To all involved we hope you do not need to continue this work too much longer and we will get back to some sort of normality in the not too distant future. Please keep up the good work and a very big thank you to everyone who is helping in any way.

John Downe, Denise Bedford

DEATH

2 May 2020 Inga-Britt Noren

Funeral: Wednesday 13 May.

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

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

PERSONAL PRAYERS

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your disciples,
"I am with you always".

Be with me today, as I offer myself to you.

Hear my prayers for others and for myself,
and keep me in your care.

From St Patrick's Breastplate:

Christ be with me, Christ within me,

Christ behind me, Christ before me,

Christ beside me, Christ to win me,

Christ to comfort and restore me.

Christ beneath me, Christ above me,

Christ in quiet, Christ in danger, Christ in hearts of all that love me

Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

Before going to sleep. From the Church of South India:

God our Father, by whose mercy the world turns safely to darkness and returns again to light:

We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes,

knowing that only what you bless will prosper.

To your love and protection we commit each other and all those we love,

knowing that you alone are our sure defender,

Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

PRAYING FOR YOU

The Weekly Sunday Bulletin 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. Any new prayer requests should be sent to office@steyningparishchurch.org

RINGERS GO ZOOM

In the current strange times everything seems to be quieter in Steyning. Less traffic on the roads and few if any planes flying overhead. The silence extends to the bell tower where we haven't been able to ring since the middle of March when the lock down was introduced.

The team of ringers, however, have been keeping in touch via Zoom with a weekly catch up on Thursday, our normal practice night, after the 8pm clap for keyworkers. Of course recently Steyning had to make do without its bells whilst the tower was being repaired. This time the lack of bells stretches right across the country. The last time this happened was during the Second World War when the ringing of church bells would signal an invasion. On that occasion the ban lasted from 1939 until bells were allowed to be rung again in 1943. They featured strongly in the celebrations of the victory in Europe. It was hoped that we would be taking part in the planned commemorations to mark the 75th anniversary on 8 May, but this was not to be.



The Tower Captain during our recent virtual practice

In the mean time, as can be seen from the picture, we are all trying our best to keep in touch and be ready to ring the bells again when this is allowed. During the Second World War there were even reports of a vicar being sent to prison for breaking the ban on ringing!

David Kircaldy

Tower Captain

MAGAZINE DEADLINE for JULY 2020

FRIDAY 5 JUNE

Email address: steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

Thank you everyone for the most generous way you have responded to the appeal for donations of money for providing food for our vulnerable families.

Here is a letter from Martin Auton-Lloyd CEO:-

Dear Friends and Supporters,

At a time when it would be easy to close the doors and focus on one's own family and their welfare you, our amazing friends and supporters, have done the opposite.

Coming into Garton House each day there has been post containing generous cheques and letters of encouragement; emails expressing concern about how we will support our families and asking how you can help us to continue?

We have had support from strangers too, who we hope will stay and be our friends now and into the future. Our Practitioners are still out there talking to, Skyping, Zooming, and using a whole host of things to ensure that families know they are supported and that we are still there. Regularly we have been sending out over a 100 food boxes across the Diocese, and this has been made possible because instead of tins you have sent cheques!

To protect the future of the Association, we have taken part in the Government's Job Protection Scheme and currently the shop staff, the play workers and the administration team are not working. We are missing having them around.

Just as we are confident of being included in your thoughts and prayers, please be assured that we are thinking of you and praying that you, too, will stay safe and well at this time,

With many thanks for your continued support,

Martin and the FSW team

Family Support Work,

Garton house,

22 Stanford Avenue,

Brighton

E. Sussex

BN1 6AA



Becca Carter, our Storrington Deanery Practitioner, writes:-

"Some families are enjoying the opportunity to home school and, for others this is a big challenge. The children with Autism and Special Need don't find this time easy without structure or routine. So thank you very much for your on going support and prayers for the families. Hope you are staying safe and well"

Becca, Storrington Deanery Practitioner

Love and best wishes,

Sue and Wendy

SAINT OF THE MONTH

ALBAN, FIRST MARTYR OF BRITAIN (c 250AD)

Alban is venerated as the first recorded British Christian martyr sometime during the third or fourth centuries of Roman Britain. He is believed to have been beheaded in the Roman city of Verulamium (now St Albans).

The Venerable Bede, writing in the early eighth century, recorded the trial and torture of Alban who was a Romano-British pagan living in

Verulamium. According to Bede, Alban met a Christian priest fleeing from persecutors and sheltered him in his house for a number of days. Alban was so impressed by the Priest's faith and piety that he soon converted to Christianity. The authorities discovered that Alban was hiding the priest and ordered his house to be searched. Alban put on the priest's cloak and clothing and gave himself up to the soldiers in place of the priest.

Alban was brought to trial and, because he had impersonated the priest, the judge ordered that he endure the punishment which would have been accorded to the priest. Alban was ordered to acknowledge and worship the pagan gods. He refused and declared "I worship and adore the true and living God who created all things." This prayer is still used in St Alban's Abbey to this day.

Following this, the judge ordered Alban to be scourged but he bore these torments without flinching. When the judge realised that Alban's faith could not be shaken, he ordered him to be beheaded. His execution took place on 22 June.

According to Bede, at the place of execution a spring of water burst forth and this became the site of the first shrine and, later, a church dedicated to Alban's memory. By the Middle Ages the church had grown into the Abbey of St Alban which became the cathedral when the Diocese of St Albans was created in 1877.



ANNA NORMAN (1934 - 2020)



Anna Norman at her 80th Birthday party

My mother, Anna Norman, died on 1 April 2020, in the home she had lived in for forty years. She'd been managing self-isolation pretty well, spending time in the garden, arranging online deliveries and appreciating support from friends, family and church members. According to the coroner, her underlying heart condition was the primary cause of death, and not Covid -19.

The move to Steyning in 1980 was a lifestyle change for my parents. Up until then, their married life had been shaped by the rigours of dairy farming. We'd lived in Ardingly, on the farm my father, John Norman, had taken over as tenant from his father. My parents first met when my mother was working nearby at Ardingly College, as a school matron. By the time my brother Paul and I had finished our schooling, the farm's viability had been jeopardised by the cap on milk production imposed by the European Common Market. So the cows were sold, we moved to Steyning, my father started work in a stables and my mother joined the school matron's team at Christ's Hospital School.

My parents had been actively involved at St Peter's Ardingly and quickly settled in to life at St Andrew's Steyning. For my mother, this would lead to a spell as churchwarden, a leading role on the cleaning team ('the holy dusters'), producing cross-stitch baptism cards for baptism families, leading intercessions in services and the joy of befriending others. This supportive and wide-ranging contribution to church life reflected her upbringing. She was the only child of an Anglican priest who was married to a former Church Army worker.

My mother's parents had met in Scotland, so she began her childhood in a slum parish in Glasgow. They later moved south to a mining village in County Durham, where she began her schooling in Bishop Auckland. After the outbreak of World War Two, they relocated to the Lake District, first to Mungriesdale and then to Bassenthwaite Parish. In her teens, they moved to a country parish in Essex. It was from there that she applied to work in a boarding school in mid-Sussex.

My parents thrived in Steyning, enjoying friendships formed at St Andrew's and the buoyant cul-de-sac community of De Braose Way. They both liked cricket, so would regularly support Sussex at the county grounds at Hove and Arundel. Neither had siblings, but their wider network of family relations and lifelong friends was always important to them, evidenced by the number of Christmas cards they sent and received each year.

During my parents' time in Steyning, we - their sons - would mirror the career pathways of their own fathers. My brother would be appointed a farm manager in Cambridgeshire and I'd be ordained a priest in the Church of England. My father sadly died in 2002. But in the years that followed, my mother was able to witness her seven grandchildren grow into adulthood and the birth of two great grandchildren.

Many are having to experience the pain of loss during these troubling times of global pandemic. There were just four of us present at my mother's funeral service at Worthing Crematorium: my brother and I, Fr Mark Heather and the funeral director. But it was a gloriously sunny spring-time afternoon. And despite the sadness that others were unable to be with us, there was a tangible sense of thanksgiving and Easter hope. For all those unable to be there, we very much hope to be able to hold a thanksgiving service at Steyning Parish Church later in the year. But for now, we are grateful for everyone's prayers and kind wishes, as together we give thanks for someone who will be sorely missed.

Revd Canon Andrew Norman

NEW BISHOPS OF HORSHAM AND LEWES



The announcement of two new Bishops for Chichester diocese was made on April 29.

The Revd Ruth Bushyager, currently Vicar of St Paul's, Dorking in the Diocese of Guildford will serve as **Bishop of Horsham**.

The Revd William Hazlewood, currently Vicar of the United Benefice of Dartmouth and Dittisham in the Diocese of Exeter will be the next **Bishop of Lewes**.

The Bishop of Chichester, Dr Martin Warner, said it was "a very significant day in the life of the Diocese of Chichester. It is the outcome of prayer, across the diocese and beyond, that has sustained us in this complex and demanding appointment process.

"The announcement of who will serve as Bishop of Horsham and Bishop of Lewes now comes as a joyful pledge of hope and confidence in the Church's mission beyond the painful restrictions that responding to the coronavirus pandemic demands of us.

"We gladly open our hearts to Ruth and to Will, and to the wonderfully diverse gifts and experience they will bring to our apostolic life, as we welcome them and their families into this household of faith."

Ruth Bushyager was ordained priest in 2006 and after serving in the Southwell & Nottingham and Oxford dioceses became Area Missioner for the Kensington area in the Diocese of London in 2010. She has served as the Vicar of St Paul's, Dorking since 2014 and now also serves as Area Dean of Dorking.

Ruth is married to Ron, a psychotherapist, and they have two young daughters.

"I am really looking forward to getting to know the churches, chaplaincies and schools of the diocese and seeing how I can help to encourage and serve their mission," said Ruth today.

Will Hazlewood has been a priest since 2002. He served his curacy in a parish in Bristol before moving to Buckinghamshire to the parish of Iver Heath on the outskirts of Slough. He moved to the Diocese of Exeter in 2011 to be Incumbent of Dartmouth and Dittisham, a market town and village in the South Hams. He became Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral in 2017. His wife Sophie grew up in Sussex and is a Project Manager. They have two young children.

"I'm really looking forward to getting started," said Will today before adding: "My first task is to listen and get to know the clergy and people of the diocese so that I can discern how to support and encourage the local mission of the church in all aspects of its life."

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL

In the centre of the city of Chichester the Cathedral, supported by Chichester Festival Theatre, has been lit up blue in support of our front-line health workers and the NHS. Spectacular.



LET THERE BE LIGHT

And God said, "let there be light," and there was light.' (Genesis 1:3)

God of radiance, source of all light:

Let there be light in my eyes, so I can see the truth more clearly;

Let there be light in my mind, so I can know your goodness more closely;

Let there be light in my heart, so I can love this world more fiercely;

Let there be light in my body, so I can experience your creation more fully;

Let there be light in my soul, so I can follow your path more freely;

Let there be light in my community, so we can accept each other more openly;

Let there be light in the church, so we can do your will more obediently;

Let there be light in my country, so we can live more peacefully;

Let there be light in the world, so all can have life more abundantly.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Gideon Heugh

MORE MEANDERING THOUGHTS FROM LOCKDOWN: WORDS.....OR.....SILENCE

At the moment I am feeling just how inadequate human vocabulary is.

Sometimes I can be moved to tears: by an unlooked-for kindness when “thank you” doesn’t seem enough; or a beautiful view which is too inspiring to absorb properly, or describe. Artists, poets, musicians and authors can use their talents to express their deepest feelings, but I have been told by some of these talented people that they are seldom completely satisfied. Does this mean our physical and mental capacities are simply not equal to our spiritual or ‘inner’ selves?

I have also sometimes wondered at the huge number of words we use to talk about God and His works. We have the Bible, commentaries and other religious books, hymns from across the centuries and those being written now, and parish magazines! Innumerable words repeated or spoken in different ways. Often a hymn (is it the lyrics or the music?) or a sermon will capture my current mood and temporarily help me express or understand my feelings, but it doesn’t seem to last. So when I really stop and think about God, who He is, what He has done, His omnipresence, His beauty, His love and generosity, His understanding and forgiveness and His accessibility through Jesus Christ, then my feelings unravel and my imagination fails as my attempts to find the words to describe Him just explode, and I am so frustrated at ‘seeing through a glass darkly’!

During lockdown I will keep on trying to worship God as I should, in prayer and by joining in hymns and listening to, and watching programmes on art and music, and church services, by reading my BRF notes and ringing Christian friends. I will daily remind myself that God simply would not be God if we could find the right words to describe Him, and instead of being frustrated by this I will be reassured by this, and spend a bit more time with Him in spirit, in quietness and meditation and peace.

A Shy Parishioner

HOSPITAL CARDS TO SEE A CHAPLAIN

In consultation with hospital chaplains, the Diocese has launched a simple card for people to print and take into hospital with them. This will state they are a Christian and agreeing for a chaplain to visit them in hospital and can be downloaded from the Diocesan website, or obtained from the Parish Office (01903 813276)

Faith in Sussex

IN THE VINEYARD WITH SARAH – SPRING 2020

Bud burst in Spring is one of my favourite times in the vineyard with new life bursting from the canes after their winter dormancy – a perfect allegory for the Easter gift of hope, renewal and new life.



March 2020 after pruning

The tiny leaves and developing flowers are vulnerable to late frosts. This year we have experimented with our pruning leaving a 'sky' cane – a spare cane pointing to the sky and hopefully out of reach of ground frosts. As soon as the risk of late frost is over, we remove the sky cane so the chosen fruiting cane can have all the energy of the vine to itself. This year about 5% of our sky canes had to be deployed to replace frost-damaged fruiting canes. It may not sound much but could represent an additional ton of grapes at harvest which would have otherwise been lost to frost. Some years we can have 70% frost

damage so I think we will keep the 'sky' cane system for future years. We are also experimenting with a new system for tying in the fruiting canes. The Pendelbogen or European Loop training system has the fruiting canes bent into an arch. This promotes better sap distribution, hopefully leading to higher yields. At harvest time we will see whether or not this experiment has been a success.



April 2020 – showing the Pendelbogen pruning system



Don't worry, its nothing to do with Covid - 19! I'm just getting ready to spray the vines to protect against Downy Mildew – another hazard faced by the new growth in wet weather as temperatures start to rise. The Covid crisis has affected us as I have had to stand down my co-operative members, the volunteers who help to tend the rows of vines for a share in the final product (seven bottles per row tended per

year). With some help from husband Brian, myself and our hard-working colleagues Jac and Steve are having to share the extra work between us.

We are looking forward to an easing of the lockdown rules!

Sarah Lavery

STUDYING THE PAST

I do have in my possession a very treasured document, namely brief records of the Ivatt family tree going back some centuries. The records I have start in 1589 when a John Ivatt was a tenant of Samuel Pepys. He had a brother William and children Elizabeth, John, Agnes and William. The family going through time clearly progressed well and there was a Rector in the family in 1680. Throughout the 17th Century there were the expected Christian names shown of William, Elizabeth, Thomas, James, and Susannah. These names appear throughout the 1700s and into the next century. Interestingly there was a General Thomas Ivatt (of Crimean War fame) who died in 1854 and his uncle Robert fathered another generation of Thomas, Mary, Robert, Harriet, Sarah, Alfred, Marmaduke and Henry. One of the family members was blind.

Moving forward and into the first World War time, there was a Captain Harold Ivatt who was killed in France in early 1918 and was awarded the Military Cross. He was recorded as being in the South Staffordshire Regiment.

Geographically most of these family members were in the London or immediately surrounding area although one branch of the family had a stronghold in Cottenham, Cambridgeshire. As a small boy I went to see these rather ancient "aunts" who, from memory, had an orchard. There is a separate branch of the family, which is fairly well known, father and son Ivatt (Henry and George) who made their mark in the emerging railway system, both the 19th and into the 20th century. The full details of their achievements are found in the York railway museum but more locally Steyning Museum has details of the Ivatt engine which pulled the last set of carriages along the Steyning line until 1966 when Dr. Beeching stepped in!



Of more recent note, I must mention my own grandparents, who were essentially Londoners although my grandmother was born in the Isle of Wight. Owing to the early demise of my mother, when I was eight, they stepped in to effectively help my now (single) father to bring up myself and my sister. The Isle of Wight connection is still maintained as there are two Ivatt engines at the Havenstreet Railway not far from Ryde. I have a lot that I owe to my grandparents undertaking the role they did and I shall never forget their rich language, much steeped in Edwardian phraseology. Suitcases were referred to as portmanteaux, coaches and buses were charabancs, and the larder was inevitably called the pantry. They did a grand job in helping to bring us to where we are today, and I still have fond memories of my boyhood holidays in the Isle of Wight.

I am sure others will have equally fascinating stories to tell of their forbears and much interest can be generated by studying family history. I hope this brief insight into my story will inspire you to delve into your own archives and share the joys of such discovery with the younger generation and perhaps even to feature in a future issue of this publication!

Ian Ivatt

Send your family history story to the Ed: steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

Ed: Thank you for the poems / writings that have been sent in. I certainly have enjoyed reading each one - **keep sending in to me, please.**

HIGH FLIGHT

Although the poem 'High Flight' by John Gillespie Magee Jr. may not be as profound as the works of other wartime poets, such as Rupert Brooke or Wilfred Owen, it is one that I have known and enjoyed reading for a long time. It is also of special interest to me because parts of it have been set to music by a number of distinguished composers, including our own Bob Chilcott.

John Gillespie Magee Jr. was an Anglo-American whose American father was a missionary in China and English mother a member of the Church Missionary Society. In 1940 he volunteered for war service in the RCAF. After gaining his wings in Canada he was sent to the UK to finish his training as a fighter pilot. On 7th. August, 1941 he flew a Spitfire for the first time and on 18th. August flew to 33,000 feet, also in a Spitfire. This flight is generally accepted as the inspiration for his poem. On a lesser level perhaps, a walk on the highest parts of our beautiful Sussex Downs can give a small insight into Magee's inspiration.

Tragically John Gillespie Magee Jr. was killed on 11th December 1941 at the age of nineteen, not in action, but in a training flying accident. As VE Day was celebrated recently it is appropriate to remember the people who suffered hardship in the past, as well as those who have been devastated by Covid 19 and who we continue to pray for and support today.

Brian Sawyer

HIGH FLIGHT

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
And danced the skies on laughter - silvered
wings
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling
mirth
Of sun - split clouds, - and done a hundred
things
You have not dreamed of - wheeled and
soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
I've chased the shouting wind along and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...

Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind - swept height with easy
grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space
Put out my hand, and touched the face of
God.

John Gillespie Magee Jr.

WASH YOUR HANDS.....A NEW PHRASE.....

Here is something patched together as an amalgam of phrases, to say when washing your hands, in case you're getting bored with singing happy birthday twice to yourself.

Taken from Macbeth.

GENTLEMAN: "It is an accustomed action with her, to seem thus washing her hands. I have known her continue thus a quarter hour".

LADY MACBETH: 'Yet, here's a spot, out damned spot, out I say.....What, will these hands ne'er be clean?.....All the perfumes of Arabia will not sweeten this little hand.....Wash your hands, look not so pale'.

If said out loud with feeling it lasts a suitable 20 seconds at least!!

Mary Travers

"Resurrection life" is not an edifying spiritual metaphor for the way Christians should live in the "here and now".

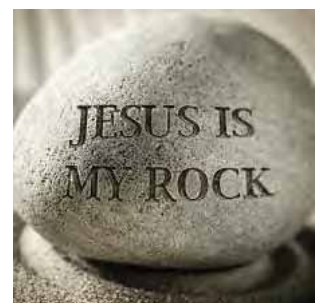
Christian life in the "here and now" is a Spirit - filled anticipation of a Kingdom yet to come".

An order of life and love

Canon Angus Ritchie

PSALM 62 VERSES 5 AND 6

Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
Truly he is my rock and my salvation;
he is my fortress,



JULIAN OF NORWICH

Julian of Norwich

Show me O anchoress, your anchor-hold
Deep in the love of God, and hold me fast.
Show me again in whose hands we are held,
Speak to me from your window in the past,
Tell me again the tale of Love's compassion
For all of us who fall onto the mire,
How he is wounded with us, how his passion
Quickens the love that haunted our desire.

Show me again the wonder of at-one-ment
Of Christ-in-us distinct and yet the same,
Who makes, and loves, and keeps us in each
moment,
And looks on us with pity not with blame.
Keep telling me, for all my faith may waver,
Love is his meaning, only love, forever.

by Malcolm Guite

The 8th of May is the feast day of Julian of Norwich, sometimes known as Mother Julian or Lady Julian. She was an English Mystic of the late fourteenth Century, living as an anchoress in Norwich. Her Shewings, or Revelations of Divine Love, a series of mystical visions of and conversations with Jesus, remain a source of profound wisdom and a gift to the church, present and future.

For a good introduction to her work I recommend Julia Bolton Holloway's website, she is herself an anchoress in Florence, and Robert Llewelyn's classic work "With Pity, not With Blame", now reprinted by the Canterbury Press.

Taken from The Singing Bowl by Malcolm Guite (Canterbury Press 2013) which you can order from Steyning Bookshop, or buy on Amazon, is this poem by Kevin Price in response to Malcolm Guite's sonnet.

BIRDSONG

On this bright morn the birdsong is a prayer
Chimed across the Norwich fields and
meadows
Chorused in jubilation,
Spreading its beauty
Across the sunlight and silence
Unfolding its ecstasy
To earthly kingdoms
And to realms beyond
And on this day, within my anchorage
Blessed by my wounds
And after long seclusion and reflection,

I recognise no wrath in our creator
The quill upon the parchment
Remembers and relates
The love and the compassion
Of Mother Christ
I fathom no sin in man
As I reflect
That imperfection is our road to God
Much has been shown to me
Of things divine,
Much can be read
Within my revelations
But you need only
To listen to the birdsong,
Reminding us of truths forgotten,
Disclosing the sweet reality
That all things shall be well.

By Kevin Price

Sent in by Tom Aubrey

LIFE IN GOD'S GARDEN

The book of Genesis tells how God's relationship with us began in a beautiful garden. While the church building, God's house, is closed physically at the moment the church garden, God's garden, can still be enjoyed and give us comfort and peace. If you are able include a stroll around the churchyard and maybe pause and sit on a bench, look listen and be still.

For those who cannot get out at the moment I hope these pictures of the garden will bring you joy. Tulips planted by Messy Church Children and helpers.

Jill Brown



THINKING ABOUT YOUR GARDEN IN JUNE

June and the garden is in full swing, but the real highlights of the moment are the roses.

Some have been flowering for a month already and give such pleasure in their many shapes and colours and scents.

With extra time on our hands why not try capturing these beautiful flowers in paint or pencil, or with our cameras or phones. Follow the different stages of the rose flower in bud - in flower - then fully blown.



Rose from Ed.'s garden,
June 2019

Here are some gardening tips for June:

1. Stay ahead of the weeds with a regular hoe, and dig out perennials, such as dandelions, before they produce seeds
2. Keep watering newly planted plants. Water directly by the plants' stem - not on the bare soil where the weeds will grow.
3. Give indoor/conservatory plants a boost with liquid fertilizer.
4. Continue to thin out drifts of hardy annuals if overcrowded.
5. Pinch out tips of fuchsia to encourage bushy habit.
6. Dead head roses if repeat flowering types
7. Start to pick sweet peas to encourage further flowers.
8. Dead head/cut back oriental poppies after flowering, close to the ground



Clematis from Ed.'s garden
June 2019

Be joyous and enjoy your garden

Robert Hill - Snook

Angels of the Bible Word Search

F R I E N D L Y B E M L S M B
T N E I D E B O C B E L D I J
A S H E A V E N E S S W N N D
N E G N I S U A E O S O A I E
G I E N C O U R A G E R S S T
E T N V N T V J P W N S U T A
L U S N I E L I V E G H O E E
D D A F T H G I R B E I H R R
O F U P R O T E C T R P T T C
G L S B O J E L B I S I V N I

ANGEL
ANNOUNCE
BEAUTIFUL
BRIGHT
CREATED
DUTIES
ENCOURAGERS
FRIENDLY
GOD
HEAVEN
INVISIBLE
JOBS
LIVE
MESSENGERS
MINISTER
OBEDIENT
PROTECT
SERVE
SING
THOUSANDS
WORSHIP



BIBLE QUIZ

1. Melchizedek was king of which city?
2. Who wrote the 23rd Psalm?
3. In which book of the bible is the parting of the Red Sea?
4. What did King Solomon ask God to give him?
5. Whose weapons were 'trumpets, pitchers and lamps' when he fought the Midianites?
6. What are the first three words in the book of Genesis
7. What was Simon of Cyrene compelled to do by the Romans?
8. Which is the last book in the Bible?
9. Adam and Eve had three children, two were Cain and Abel, name the third?
10. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle?

ANAGRAM FOR JUNE

On Monday 29 June the church celebrates the festival of two great saints - Saints Peter and Paul. They were the foremost of Jesus' disciples and the founders of the widespread Christian church.

Your challenge: How many words can you make from

SAINT PETER

Remember to:

USE LETTERS ONLY ONCE

HAVE NO PLURAL WORDS

HAVE NO CAPITALISED WORDS eg names of people or places

HAVE WORDS OF THREE OR MORE LETTERS.

The Editor has one 9 letter word, and the word I like best is TRANSEPT.

Let me now how you get on via the magazine email address.

Bible Quiz Answers: 1. Salem; 2. David; 3. Exodus; 4. Wisdom; 5. Gideon; 6. In the beginning; 7. Carry the cross of Jesus; 8. Revelation; 9. Seth; 10. Cana

LOVING THE LOCKDOWN LINGO

Are you fully conversant with the new terminology?

Coronacoaster

The ups and downs of your mood during the pandemic. You're loving lockdown one minute but suddenly weepy with anxiety the next. It truly is "an emotional coronacoaster".

Blue Skype thinking

A work brainstorming session which takes place over a videoconferencing app.

Le Creuset wrist

It's the new aching arm after taking one's best saucepan outside to bang during the weekly 'Clap For Carers.'

Coronials

As opposed to millennials, this refers to the future generation of babies conceived or born during coronavirus quarantine.

They might also become known as "Generation C"

Furlough Merlot

Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working. Also known as "bored-eaux" or "cabernet tedium"..

The elephant in the Zoom

The glaring issue during a videoconferencing call that nobody feels able to mention.

Covidiot

One who ignores public health advice or behaves with reckless disregard for the safety of others can be said to display "covidiocy" or be "covidiotic". Also called a "lockclown".

Covid-10

The 10lbs in weight that we're all gaining from comfort-eating and comfort-drinking.

...and finally, finally:

One sentence to sum up 2020, so far: At one point this week, one loo roll was worth more than a barrel of crude oil.

Written by Karen Hollis

Shared on Facebook by Mary Penley

29 April 2020

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

We are several weeks into the lockdown and it feels like life will never be the same again. At Greening Steyning, we are considering what our small part of the world might be like, and what we want to do differently once the Pandemic is over. Climate change has taken a back seat during this crisis, but it has not gone away. Many of the same strategies we are using to halt the spread of the virus will be needed to tackle the environmental crisis. Our hope is that we can maintain the momentum of collective action and solidarity to create a healthier, kinder and greener society.

Here are some questions that we have been considering and may resonate with you.

Are you clearer about what is most important? Many of us are realising that health, family, kindness and courage are far more significant than status or possessions. The Pandemic has highlighted what matters most in our lives. Before the crisis many of us were fascinated by sportspeople, actors and other celebrities. Now they seem insignificant and our real heroes are the extraordinary doctors, nurses, carers and other front line workers fighting coronavirus. Each one of us is in the front line to stop the virus and also prevent climate change. We can all be heroes.

Have you realised that you don't need as much as you thought? We have not been able to travel, shop or consume in the way we used to. Of course, there are activities we miss, but maybe you will be perfectly happy living more simply in the future. Maybe you have started to declutter your home already, and wondered how you ever accumulated so much in the first place! Buying less stuff and reducing our waste will help the environment as well as our bank balance.

Have you acknowledged the vital role of Science in our lives? Almost every government has made its decisions and policy following the advice of scientists and experts. The only way we can stop the pandemic is through science-based strategies such as social distancing, testing and ultimately a vaccine. Evidence-based policy is the key, and the same is true for climate change. If we put science at the forefront of our political, social and economic policy going forward we can not only eliminate coronavirus, we can also prevent climate breakdown and ecological collapse.

Have you gained a new appreciation for your community? Being in lockdown may have restricted our movement, while at the same time broadening our relationships with neighbours. As we have been forced to stay in one place, we have begun to appreciate just how precious our neighbourhood is. Once the crisis is over, we can build on this communal spirit and improve our local community even more.

This is a unique opportunity to reflect on our future, and think about what we want to change in our lives and in our community once we get through this crisis. We would love to hear your ideas. The 2030 project is more important than ever, and we would love your support.

If you haven't yet done so, do fill our online '[Count me in](#)' sign up form. We're collecting names of everyone who'd like to get involved, and asking which topics you are most interested in. That way you'll be first to hear of follow up plans.

Paul Hannam April 2020 Co-Chair Greening Steyning



**A REMINDER ABOUT
THE CO-OP COMMUNITY FUND
WHICH IS SUPPORTING US
TO INSTALL NEW LIGHTING
FOR THE CHURCHYARD FOOTPATH**

The Co-op Community Fund is a wonderfully easy way for us to raise money to help pay for new lighting for the church footpath.

All you need to do is:

- become a member of the Co-op either by signing up at the local Co-op or going online at <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership>
- register your card on the same website
- click on **Choose Your Local Cause** and choose **Steyning Parish Church**

Then, every time you purchase selected Co-op branded products and services, 1% of what you spend will go to our fund. Not only that, but 5% of what you spend will go into your Co-op reward account for you to spend with the Co-op whenever you want.

For all details of the scheme see <https://www.coop.co.uk/membership/member-benefits>

By the end of February this scheme had raised £488.28 for us. Previous local causes have been able to raise over £6,000 by the end of the round (in October 2020) so if we can all support the scheme it will be a huge contribution to our fund-raising target.

It doesn't matter where you live – anyone can choose Steyning Parish Church from Lands End to John O'Groats so *do ask family and friends to support us as well.*

The Co-op have been wonderful in supporting our community in so many ways and this way we can support them too so it is a brilliant win-win opportunity.

For more information please speak to Christine Aubrey (01903 879986)

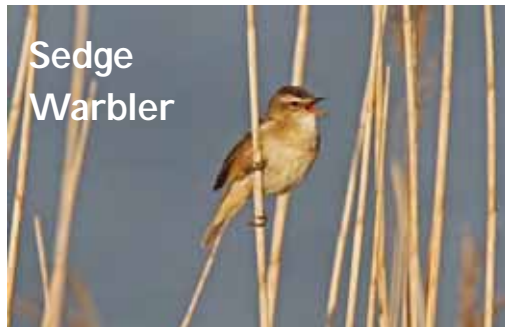
DO JOIN UP NOW

HELP TO INCREASE THE DONATION THE CO OP WILL GIVE

I bless the rains down in Africa

It's amazing how a song can transport you someplace else. I can't hear 'Africa' by American soft-rockers Toto without drifting back 35 years to a school disco in Plymouth. Right now I'm sat by a Sussex reedbed listening to two songs simultaneously pouring from deep in the reeds. These songs also take me back to my childhood and Saturday mornings spent bird-watching beside similar reedbeds in South Devon.

These summer singers are two small brown birds; the Reed Warbler and the Sedge Warbler and their songs make me feel strangely nostalgic for a place I have never been; Ghana, where these warblers will have spent the winter before returning to Sussex each spring. Reed Warblers are rather plain whereas Sedge Warblers sport a streaky back and stripy head with a heavy 'eyebrow' that fixes them with a permanently intense expression. But these identification features aren't important because you'll rarely see these secretive birds. But, boy, will you hear them! Because when they start singing they just can't stop.



The Reed Warbler's song is a loud, repetitive stuttering chatter of jumbled phrases that just just doesn't just doesn't seem to just just just just doesn't just doesn't seem to seem to go anywhere. It sounds like one of those warehouse-sized 1950's computers churning out data. The Sedge Warbler's song is similar but much more energetic and erratic with added harsh 'churrrs' and whistles giving the overall impression that it urgently needs a straightjacket and heavy medication.

These complex songs have a simple message; 'Hey ladies, my territory is so rich in insects that I don't have to spend much time hunting for my food; I can waste my time just singing'. It's the loudest, longest, craziest song that will seduce a feathered female. Sedge Warblers raise their family in a no-thrills nest low in vegetation but the Reed Warbler weaves an incredible deep hammock lashed together with spider silk between the stiff stems of the tall reeds. The whole cradle will rock as the reeds bow in the breeze.

In August, after raising their families, their warbler thoughts drift back to Africa where drums echo and wild dogs cry out in the night. The warblers will gorge themselves with aphids and, with a fat belly full of fuel, take off from Sussex and head over Iberia, North Africa and the wide Sahara to Ghana; a 3000 mile journey. I always imagine a Ghanaian naturalist pausing momentarily each autumn to observe these returning visitors. Do his thoughts drift to the Sussex riverside where they spent the summer? When the rains return to Africa in the spring they will summon the insect food that will again power their tiny warbler wings back to England to add to my Sussex summer soundtrack.



SENDING MAGAZINES

We are looking at different ways of distributing notices, worship materials and magazines to those who are not able to access this material on line. We are following official advice that any printed materials must be distributed by post. Scrupulous hand washing before handling the materials and the period of quarantine in the postal system minimises the risk of spreading the virus. Alice is one of our young volunteers helping our mailing teams.

ASCENSION

HOW MANY WORDS COULD YOU MAKE?

LEN WARNER AND LARRY CULLIFORD CAME BACK TO ME WITH 45 WORDS

BILL AND JUDIE THOMSON FOUND 90+ WORDS

If anybody needs to use The Hub please call 0800 955 4359 and talk to one of the helpers there.

The Front Cover shows a symbol of us lifting up our hearts. There have been so many instances of people lifting their hearts to others, and also it is a reminder of the Eucharist Service:

Lift up your hearts,
We lift them to the Lord.



Image entitled SURSUM CORDA

