

Steyning and Ashurst

Church Magazine



OCTOBER 2020

ISSUED FREE



Steyning Parish Church,

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Services at **St Andrew's & St Cuthman's** resumed in July. There is a said Eucharist with organ music at 9:30am every Sunday, and we also resumed our 11:30am midweek Eucharist every Wednesday.

HARVEST FESTIVAL at **Steyning** will take place at 9:30am on 4 October.

In October at **St James's Ashurst** we will be keeping a family **HARVEST FESTIVAL** service on 11 October, in the churchyard, weather permitting. The fourth Sunday service is Holy Communion using the Book of Common prayer. We also hold a virtual service of Prayer Book Matins using 'Zoom' software on the first Sunday of each month. All begin at 10:30am.

Careful hygiene precautions will be observed and arrangements for receiving Holy Communion (in one kind) will be explained during each service.

We will continue to provide worship resources on our website (and by post for congregation members without email) over the autumn for those who need to stay at home for the sake of their health.

Fr Mark, Vicar of Steyning and Rector of Ashurst

Parish Office Address:

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THE OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED BUT IS STAFFED REMOTELY

Post is being picked up and the telephone diverted to the

Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

FR MARK WRITES



Dear Friends,

One of my abiding memories of the spring and summer of 2020 is likely to be saying morning prayer in the vicarage garden. There have been very few days when the weather was so inclement as to make this impossible, and even the experience of sitting under the shelter of the kitchen porch, watching the garden increasingly saturated by steady drizzle will be one of the pleasant memories. Those of you who have sometimes shared the experience by listening to the audio recordings on the website have appreciated some of the background noises, whether birdsong or, every now and again, the scratching or tinkling bell of a vicarage cat scaling a tree on some of the sunnier days. At some point, as winter draws on, it will feel right to move back into the church for both morning and evening prayer, but for now, as summer turns to autumn, I will continue to ponder each morning the simple beauty of nature under the changing seasons.

In 1843, when the eccentric Anglican priest and poet, Robert Stephen Hawker (1803–1875) decided to revive declining but ancient harvest traditions, by inviting his rural Cornish congregation to share a harvest loaf made from the first cut of corn, he chose to do so on the first Sunday in October. In modern farming, October might be seen to be rather late in the agricultural season, given that, nowadays, all is 'safely gathered in' by the end of the summer. But it's probably right to keep Harvest Festival in Keats's 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness', when all the apples are ready to eat, and nature's glory has developed to its fullest abundance.

As joining in the familiar Harvest hymns won't be possible this year, our celebration may feel somewhat muted, but I hope it won't hinder our appreciation God's merciful goodness:

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Isaiah 55.10 -11

Fr Mark

FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the October edition of this Church magazine. Of course at this time of year the theme has to be harvest. I hope there are some pickings in here that you can enjoy as well as find informative and helpful.

Thank you for continuing to send articles in to me keep them coming, as it is only with your help that we can have church outreach. Your stories are important.

Please send in something for the November edition of the magazine to:

steyningchurchmag@gmail.com



TO AUTUMN BY JOHN KEATS

Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;
Conspiring with him how to load and bless
With fruit the vines that round the thatch-
eaves run;
To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,
And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;
To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells
With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,
And still more, later flowers for the bees,
Until they think warm days will never cease,
For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy
cells.

Who hath not seen thee oft amid thy store?
Sometimes whoever seeks abroad may find
Thee sitting careless on a granary floor,
Thy hair soft-lifted by the winnowing wind;
Or on a half-reap'd furrow sound asleep,
Drows'd with the fume of poppies, while thy hook
Spares the next swath and all its twinéd flow-
ers:

And sometimes like a gleaner thou dost keep
Steady thy laden head across a brook;
Or by a cyder-press, with patient look,

Thou watchest the last oozings hours by
hours.
Where are the songs of Spring? Ay, where are
they?
Think not of them, thou hast thy music too,—
While barréd clouds bloom the soft-dying day,
And touch the stubble-plains with rosy hue;
Then in a wailful choir the small gnats mourn
Among the river shallows, borne aloft
Or sinking as the light wind lives or dies;
And full-grown lambs loud bleat from hilly
bourn;
Hedge-cricket sing; and now with treble soft
The red-breast whistles from a garden-croft;
And gathering swallows twitter in the skies.



**MAGAZINE DEADLINE for
NOVEMBER 2020
MONDAY 5 OCTOBER**

Email address: steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

PARISH REGISTERS

No weddings or baptisms to record.

"I've grieved for my wedding" Ruth Lumbers, a 37 year old nurse says. "I know it was only a day, but I actually had to grieve for it"

Please pray for all who have not had their special day this year.

Loving God, Surround us this day with your presence; Be with us in our disappointments and in our joys; Help us to be wise as we re-think our wedding plans. Sustain us in our love for one another, and hold all whom we love in your great love.

PAUSE AND PRAY

Generous God,
You give us gifts and make them grow:
Though our faith is small as a mustard seed,
make it grow to your glory and the
flourishing of your kingdom;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord of heaven and earth, as Jesus taught his
disciples to be persistent in prayer,
give us patience and courage never to lose
hope, but always to bring our prayers before
you;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lord God, just and true, you make your salvation known in the sight of the nations:
Tune the song of our hearts to the music of creation, as you come among us to judge the
earth;
Through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

DEATHS

Josephene (Jo) Anne Thornton Died 25 August

Funeral 10 September at Steyning Parish Church

William Edward Jones Died 15 August

Funeral 7 September at St James's Ashurst

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

Our love and prayers for Jo and William, and for all their families during this difficult time.

PRAYING FOR YOU

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. Any new prayer requests should be sent to:

office@steyningparishchurch.org

PRAYER DIARY FOR OCTOBER

Monday 5 October World Teachers' Day

Let us give thanks for all those who devote their lives and talents to education, and pray for God's blessing on all teachers today and every day.

Friday 16 October World Food Day

During this season of Harvest let us pray for all farmers and seafarers around the world, and we give thanks for all their work during the year to feed the nations. We remember especially those who are hard hit by the effects of the pandemic.

Monday 19 October St Luke the Evangelist (transferred)

Christ the hope of glory, our praise is in the Gospel.

Help us to proclaim in word and deed the wholesome medicine of the Gospel with love and power to heal, in the name of Christ.

Sunday 25 October Bible Sunday

God of yesterday, today and for ever,

Thank you that in you we may affirm our heritage and forge new paths. Pour new blessing upon your church as we commemorate the past, seek your will in the present and lay our plans for the future before you.

Wednesday 28 October St Simon and St Jude, Apostles

Almighty God, who built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone:

So join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETINGS

Steyning's delayed Annual Parochial Church Meeting is to be held in church at **10:30am on Sunday, 18 October**. As usual it will be preceded by the separate parochial meeting when churchwardens are elected. Formal notices may be found in the church porch. Please note: Anyone who wishes to stand or nominate someone for the Parochial Church Council may obtain an application form from the Parish Office.

We have four vacancies on the council this year (one being a casual vacancy) and this year we also have to hold an election for our four representatives on the Deanery Synod.

Anyone who is not already a member of the church electoral roll can complete a simple form to vote in church elections. You can request these from the Parish Office, or in church from one of the stewards. Nomination forms for elections may also be obtained from the office.

If you are not sure whether you are member of the electoral roll please contact the Parish Office on 01903 813276

*Please note that, because the roll is revised every year before the annual meeting you will need to submit your form **BEFORE THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER**. Completed forms should be posted through the Penfold Hall letterbox.*

HARVEST FESTIVAL GIFTS

Harvest Festivals will be held on:

4 October 9:30 am at Steyning Parish Church

11 October 10:30am at St James's, Ashurst

During these recent months your thoughtful and generous money donations have been a tremendous help enabling us to feed and care for our families. At Harvest Time FSW fill their coffers with your gifts which sustain the families throughout the winter months. Last month we mentioned the ways you can help. These are:

- ◇ **Financial donations made by cheque payable to 'Steyning PCC', with 'Family Support Work' on the reverse of the cheque, and posted through the Penfold Hall letterbox**
- ◇ **Financial donations made electronically using the 'Donate' button on the FSW website at www.familysupportwork.org**
- ◇ **Toiletries and non-perishable groceries can be left in the basket by Steyning Vicarage front doorstep at any time.**

It will assist our collection arrangements this year if as many gifts as possible can be taken to the vicarage rather than to church please. If you bring your gifts to either church on the day these will need to be left in the church porch because of pandemic precautions.

Thank you.

With our love

Sue and Wendy



THE "NOT A GARDEN PARTY" SALE

A big thank you to all of you who came to our Bank Holiday garden produce stall. Thanks to your generosity we managed to make £430 for the Church of England Children's Society.

Jill and Roger



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The Children's Society will be delighted to receive this generous donation resulting from Jill and Roger's New Format Garden Party.

The Society was founded in 1881 by a Sunday School teacher who was appalled at the living conditions of children from large poor families in towns and cities. Initially the Society provided residential homes for these children and then moved to facilitate their adoption. By the 1990's changing social attitudes led to a change in emphasis in the Society's work and the homes were gradually closed and adoption was increasingly taken on by local authorities.



Now the Society, inspired by the Christian message that children are at the heart of the Kingdom of God, strives to improve the lives of all children and young people taking action on child sexual and criminal exploitation, child poverty and mental health. Last year it directly supported 11,513 children and young people and a further 500,000 benefitted from its campaigns on their behalf.

In the last reported financial year the Society spent £19.2 million directly on its charitable work whilst income from donations and legacies was £18.3 million. The deficit was covered by income from trading and investments. Both these sources of income are likely to be severely impacted by the current epidemic, so Jill and Roger's donation will be appreciated all the more. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN AID APPEAL



The red bucket collection in Steyning Parish Church for Christian Aid Coronavirus Appeal in Yemen, Syria and South Sudan raised a final total of £141 to which we have added £100 from the PCC's budget for mission.

Thank you for your donations

including those given directly to Christian Aid online.

WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS AND SCATTER

Author: *Matthias Claudius. Matthias was a German and the original poem was about 17 verses long and entitled "Im Anfang war's auf Erden" (In the beginning it was the earth) and was published in 1782 as "A Peasant's Song"*

Translator: *Jane Campbell. She lived in London when she translated certain verses into English in 1878, and started with verse 3, We plough the fields and scatter....*

Today ploughing and scattering are so different from what was done in 1782, and again so different from the time of Jesus.

Jesus was a man of the land – he travelled round the country and told stories about growth, farming, shepherds, crops and vineyards. He was affected by the rhythm of the land and the string of festivals where he and his fellow Jews gave thanks to God. Harvest has been part of human experience for centuries.



When I took the picture on the front cover I sat for a long time thinking about the skill of our farmers, and how they have to manage the land, in terms of growing, harvesting, animal husbandry, making it all pay the wages, showing resilience when the weather or disease hits....and so, so much more. Farmers have the same land as they have for centuries, but they have had to diversify and adapt to changes all along the ages, and will continue to do so.

I take my hat off to all farmers.

Harvest is about being thankful for all our bountiful food – from the land and the sea – and living here we have the benefit of being among fishermen and farmers. Before putting this magazine together I asked several people which is the first harvest hymn that comes to mind, and without exception each one came back with "We plough the fields" and so that is why we celebrate this one here, as our churches celebrate Harvest Festival.

In August and September tractors have been regularly passing our house, and are filled high with bales of hay. We all can be amazed at the accuracy of the straight lines produced by the tractors and combine harvesters and how farmers manoeuvre the machines in the fields and the roads. We all can stare and wonder at the fabulous colours around us - yellow, orange, red and brown - smiling yellow sunflowers, mouth - watering promise from vineyards, sparkling red berries and hips, ripening nuts, as well as the waving forests of corn – these and more give delight whether we can get into the countryside, or conjure the picture in our mind's eye.

We thank God for the sun and the rain in the hymn, and round here all seems fair and dandy, but floods can happen in this country and elsewhere, and of course we know of the places where there is severe drought, so as we sing this hymn to ourselves may we give thanks for all the work being done to try to help those crying in need, and also for our planet crying in need. God has no hands but our hands, and as we rejoice in the many blessings we receive each day let us also do all we can to help our neighbours, near and far. Rejoice in the love of God, and respond in the same spirit.

Chris Fitton



LET THERE BE LIGHT

The lighting and electrics campaign is really gaining momentum. The proposals from the tenders are due for the architect and project team to review prior to the PCC meeting in November. They will appoint the contractor who will be committed to starting the installation JANUARY 2021.

FUNDRAISING,.....THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS.

We are just short of the £70,000 target, so there is still time should you wish to make a donation. Progress can be followed on the church website under 'Let there be light'. (At the time of going to press, £59,252 has been raised, so we are 85% towards the target).

This is the final stage of the project, after three years of investigating and campaigning to confidently recommend sophisticated lighting and electrical systems that will enhance the church and prove to benefit the congregation and the town community.

Jim Lang. Project Co-ordinator

HARVEST GLEANINGS

"Now, as I walk along the field, all that golden grain is harvested. Yet the harvester did not take everything: for all along the field side path are many heads of grain still on their stalks: good gleaning for anyone who needs them. I pick up a golden stalk and rub it in my hands, the chaff falling easily from the grain and blowing away. I feel as though I had the whole gospel, with all its long reach back into earlier scripture, lying in the palm of my hand.



Here are just such field edge gleanings as Boaz left for Ruth that she might understand her welcome, and that, together, they might begin that line of descent which led down to David and beyond. And so they first made sacred the little town of Bethlehem, so that in Bethlehem, (The House of Bread) the Bread of Life might be born.

Malcolm Guite

From The Church Times

Harvest Prayer: We pray for all through whom we receive sustenance and life; for farmers and agricultural workers, for packers, distributors and company boards.

As you have so ordered our life that we depend upon each other, enable us by your grace to seek the well-being of others before our own.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

WILLIAM TYNDALE (c1494-1536)

REFORMATION MARTYR

William Tyndale was born in Gloucestershire about 1494 and studied at both Oxford and Cambridge. He was a gifted linguist and was influenced by the Reformation which was taking hold on the Continent. He was ordained priest in 1515 and served at a parish outside Bristol where he enraged the local clergy by preaching on College Green in the City centre.



He then conceived the idea of translating the Bible into English from the original languages and his version drew directly from Hebrew and Greek texts. The Tyndale Bible was the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press and was the first of the new English Bibles of the Reformation. It was seen as a direct challenge to the authority of The Catholic Church in England and to the Law of England which maintained the Church's position.

Tyndale had to flee the country and travelled to Hamburg where he could work in greater safety. However, he had to keep on the move and, in 1524, he was in Wittenberg and met Martin Luther. In 1530 he wrote a treatise entitled "The Practyse of Prelates" in which he opposed

From Tyndale's 1525 translation of the New Testament.

Henry VIII's annulment of his own marriage to Catherine of Aragon on the grounds that it contravened Holy Scripture. This infuriated the King who demanded of the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, that Tyndale be arrested and returned to England under the terms of the Treaty of Cambrai but the Emperor responded that formal evidence was required before he could be extradited.

A friend betrayed Tyndale in 1535 and he was arrested in Antwerp and jailed in Vilvoorde Castle outside Brussels for over a year. In 1536 he was convicted of heresy and executed on 6th October by strangulation after which his body was burnt at the stake.

Miles Coverdale continued Tyndale's work and, in 1537, the Matthew Bible (Tyndale and Coverdale) was published with Royal Permission. It is estimated that 83% of the New Testament and 76% of the Old Testament in the 1611 Authorised Version was based on Tyndale's work and he has been recognised as a formative influence, not just on Christianity in the English-speaking world, but on the English language itself.

SCHOOL IN A PANDEMIC

At Steyning C of E Primary School we closed our doors on the 20th March to the majority of our children, but continued to work with families from behind closed doors with remote learning, as well as to be open to those vulnerable children and to those from families of Keyworkers. It all happened so suddenly and yet we rose to the occasion and ensured our children and families were well catered for educationally and emotionally, as well as ensuring our staff were safe too. We taught the key children in school, linked virtually with children at home, sent home planning, phoned all children regularly, gave emotional support and advice to families who needed extra support, often with weekly check ins, we organised food parcels to those most in need and continued to work with all the outside agencies involved with our families to ensure all our families continued to receive the support they needed.

We adapted and grew in ways that we hadn't considered before, as they say; *necessity is the mother of invention*. Staff posted motivational videos, told stories on video, talked via Learning Platforms directly with children and their parents to set questions and answer them, as well as have group conversations. We had entered a new world very quickly.

By the end of the school year we grew our school pupil numbers up to nearly two hundred and had our organisational strategies much more developed and Risk Assessments and procedures were flying out weekly to parents and staff. Our community had really risen to the challenge of educating and supporting our children and families. Then we ensured that our Year 6 children went off with a bang and did not miss out on a transition of a lifetime, and I hope you enjoyed reading all about that in the September Parish magazine. Our school advisor said, "I would want to be a child at your school, they are so loved."

We all went off into the Summer holidays exhausted but hoping to open fully in September. After extensive planning and organising our school did indeed open fully in September and with excellent attendance, it's been wonderful to see our children back in school and loving it.

They have come back excited and motivated, we as staff have worked hard to ensure school feels like school and it is a happy, upbeat place, even though it is odd, with lots of hand washing, one-way systems, masks, visors, staggered drop offs and collections, playgrounds divided and many other changes to the timetable. We still do fun exciting things it just takes more planning and a lot longer; this week one-year group came dressed as Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and ate lots of different fruit in a COVID-19 acceptable way. We are now adjusting to sending people home and waiting for results, working out all the myriad of possible decisions to be made based on an outcome and knowing that no matter what you decide you cannot please everyone. Nevertheless, we will continue to do our best for our children and our families, follow the guidance closely, and try to keep everyone safe, happy, learning and loved. This year will be a testing one, but I think we will all learn a lot and one where our vision to *"Do everything in love; we do our best in all we do and all we say with god's love,"* based on *1 Corinthians 14:16* is going to be more important than ever.

Sue Harrison Headteacher

THE LAST SHALL BE FIRST, AND THE FIRST SHALL BE LAST

During the coronavirus, we have all had to adapt to different approaches. Services moved from the church building to online, and although services have resumed in church, the alternative remains available for those unable to join us. The Armchair Homilies have proven to be easily the most popular of our online service features, particularly those where our 'Open the Book' team have performed a short dramatisation.

The latest of these was released for the September third Sunday service, and it recounts the parable of the workers in the vineyard – but viewers may not appreciate the preparation and work involved in filming even a short ten-minute drama.

On a mostly sunny Saturday morning the Open the Book team, and a few others, gathered at a local vineyard, Southlands Valley Wines, near West Chiltington, and which is owned by our own deputy churchwarden Sarah Lavery. The 2-hectare vineyard is planted with Pinot Noir, Chardonnay and Pinot Meunier, the three Champagne grapes, so unsurprisingly its main product is a sparkling wine – Smock Alley.



Canon Nigel Hartley, as director, had prepared a 'script', although there was little dialogue. The point of the film was to show that various groups of workers were hired to tend the vines, ranging from the enthusiastic who were waiting for the vineyard owner (a nice bit of typecasting for Sarah) early in the morning, to the somewhat less able and enthusiastic who were only taken on at the last hour because nobody else would hire them.

At the close of the working day, the owner directed the foreman (Fiona Aiton) to pay each worker one denarius - the Roman coin from which came the 'd' abbreviation for the old British penny. Naturally, those who had been hired early and worked hard all day were not pleased to only receive the same amount as the latecomers. The moral of the parable is, of course, that all are equally valued in the kingdom of Heaven, whether they have known Christ all their lives or had only seen the light later on.

Each shot of the video was meticulously planned, and followed location rather than time, so wasn't filmed in chronological order. Sometimes it worked out well first time, others needed several 'takes' to find which worked best. Most of us were able to enjoy the day out – and the excellent catering provided – and learn something about wine and film-making. But work had just begun for Nigel and Jill, who had to piece together all the separate pieces of video and sound; a major task in itself that takes many times longer than the finished product takes to play. Maybe there is another parable there?

Anyway, we hope you enjoyed the film as much as we enjoyed our small part in making it.

Bill Thomson

WHAT PEOPLE WRITE ABOUT

Ethnic hatred:

- ♦ “I am a licensed lay worker and soon to be Evangelist in Training with The Church Army. I am also a black woman. I have been on the receiving end of some ignorant, offensive and downright silly questions and statements over my lifetime, even when working in church”.

Andrena Palmer

- ♦ “Young black people of today don’t need equality, they need equity. What’s the difference? Equality is when you give everyone the same thing, regardless of what they need. Equity is when you give people what they need so that they’re on the same level as everyone else”.

Chi-Chi Nwanoku MBE

- ♦ Ephesians 2 v 15,16 explains how a new humanity, in the light of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection should be. “ Ethnic hatred has been dissolved by the crucifixion of his precious body on the cross. The legal code that stood condemning every one of us has now been repealed by his command. His triune essence has made peace between us by starting over -forming one new race of humanity. Jews and non - Jews fused together! Two have now become one, and we live restored to God and reconciled in the body of Christ. Through His crucifixion, hatred died”.

The Passion Translation

Song Without Words

In the unlikely event that I am ever asked on to *Desert Island Discs*, I know I'd choose quite a lot of Beethoven. To celebrate the 250th anniversary of his birth this year, I have been reading Laura Tunbridge's excellent *Beethoven: A life in Nine Pieces* and enjoying the BBC's three part series *Being Beethoven*. I've tended to think that in life he was probably a person easier to admire than like, but I've been made to reconsider.

Tears came to my eyes when I read about his visit to the home of his pianist friend Dorothea von Ertmann. Her three year old son had just died. Beethoven came in, sat at the piano, and improvised beautifully for about an hour. He then got up, pressed Dorothea's hand, and “went silently as he had arrived”.

Music, that day, was the only language they were able to share.

*Mark Oakley
From The Church Times*

Editor: Thank you for the various writings and articles that have been sent in. I have enjoyed reading each one - **keep sending them in to me, please.**

CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR THIS YEAR



A small selection of cards from the Children's Society

Come and look by appointment

All handled safely and safe distances will be kept.

The pandemic has changed many things but it can't stop time and as time passes so Christmas draws near.

Perhaps this year a thoughtfully chosen card sent to someone whom you have been unable to meet with will be received with even more appreciation.

Although we can't hold our usual sale of Children's Society cards I have samples of 26 cards they are selling this year. All the cards are printed in the UK using FSC certified materials and come in packs of 10 and cost from between £3.25 and £4.00 per pack.

A small selection is shown above.

If you would like to see them all, or make a purchase, please phone me on 01903 816946. Based on previous years' experience over 50p of every pound spent directly benefits the Society.

David Fitton 01903 816946



CUTHMAN LECTURE

CREATING THE FUTURE WE WANT

A new story for ourselves, our community and our planet

Paul Hannam, MA, FRSA

Thursday 15th October 2020, 7.00pm, By Zoom

Sadly, one of the casualties of the Covid pandemic has been the Cuthman Lectures. Hopefully the talks which were booked in for this autumn will be merely postponed until the time that we can meet up again. However, one of our speakers, Paul Hannam, has kindly agreed to give his lecture via Zoom. Paul is very experienced at working this way and it means there will be opportunities for you to ask questions and engage in discussion with him. You will need to book a (free) place with Eventbrite. This is very easy to do - the link will be on the church website and in the weekly email from October 1. We will then send you the Zoom login details.

Christine Aubrey

The pandemic has enabled us to pause and reflect what matters most in our lives. During lockdown, many of us gained a renewed appreciation of our families, our friends and neighbours and our local community. Now, we have a clear choice in front of us. Do we return to the old normal or do we create a new future?

There is even greater urgency to change, as we are not only dealing with the virus and a depressed economy, we are also facing climate breakdown and ecological collapse. We have to change our lifestyles, and we have to do it quickly. The good news is that we have the knowledge and tools to achieve this, and also to improve both the quality of our lives and of our community.

In this talk, author and environmentalist, Paul Hannam, will outline a new vision for our community based on his work as co-chair of Greening Steyning. Applying exciting new research in health and wellbeing as well as established spiritual principles, Paul will describe how we can live healthily, happily and sustainably as we confront these challenges.

Paul and over fifty local residents are actively developing a positive vision for Steyning, Bramber and Upper Beeding that brings together best practices from around the world, and he will describe how other towns and villages have tackled climate change and built resilient and flourishing communities.

Ultimately, we need a new story about what it means to be human. We need to reconnect to our spiritual roots, our community and, above all, our Earth. We are part of nature, not separate. We are citizens, not consumers.

Paul is a Sunday Times bestselling author and former fellow of Oxford University where he taught environmental management. He has worked in the field of behavioural change and leadership for over 30 years as an entrepreneur, academic and consultant. He lives in Bramber and is co-chair of Greening Steyning.

RECIPE FOR OCTOBER

COTTAGE CHEESE QUICHE.

Serves 4 as a main dish or 6-8 as a starter/light lunch or as part of a picnic.

1 tub of plain cottage cheese

1 tub of flavoured cottage cheese of your choice. I usually use chilli and red pepper.

1 can of macaroni cheese

3 large eggs

Tomato to decorate (optional)



Method

Pre heat oven to fan 200.

Put the plain cottage cheese into a sieve to remove the excess liquid. Don't push the cottage cheese through, this is just to strain the excess to ensure it sets.

Put the strained plain cottage cheese into a large mixing bowl.

Now put the flavoured cottage cheese into the sieve again just to strain the excess liquid.

Add the flavoured cottage cheese to the large bowl.

Using a large metal spoon, mix the two tubs of cottage cheese together.

Open the can of macaroni cheese and add to the large bowl with the cottage cheese.

Using the metal spoon, mix the macaroni into the cottage cheese.

Now add the eggs to the cottage cheese and macaroni mixture and stir until combined.

Ensure there are no streaks of unmixed cottage cheese.

Pour the mixture into an oven proof dish.

Slice the tomatoes if using and place on top of the mixture.

Put into the oven and cook for 35-40 minutes. Depending on your oven you may need to cook for longer and it needs to be set but have a slight wobble in the middle.

Once cooked, remove from the oven and leave to cool slightly in the dish (around 5-10 minutes to allow it to fully set making it easier to slice and serve), then slice. Serve warm straight from the dish or cool and serve cold.

Serve with a salad and jacket potato or part of a picnic/buffet or light lunch.

THINKING ABOUT GARDENS

Robert has managed to get stuck in his garden shed.....he promises he will be out again to write for this magazine in March 2021!!

Editor: Try to keep warm in the winter, Robert, and enjoy your break. We will look forward to your return next year. Thank you.

We are planting some more trees in our garden this autumn, and the planning has sparked the following thought:

TREES OF THE BIBLE

In Ezekiel Pharaoh is compared to a cedar tree.

The Olive tree is mentioned many times in the Bible, but first in the story of Noah.

Of course the fig tree is to be found in Genesis, but also Jesus finds Nathaniel sitting beneath a fig tree.

'Then said the trees unto the vine, Come thou and reign over us. And the vine said unto them, Should I leave my wine, which cheereth God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees' (*Judges 9 v 12,13*).

A Tamarisk Tree shaded Saul as he held court, and then later both Saul and his son Jonathon were buried under the Tamarisk.

THE STEYNING SOCIETY

Talks to come:

Go to www.steyningsociety.org.uk and then to Talks to watch

Janet Pennington give



"An illustrated walk around Old Steyning" until Monday 12th October.

Then watch Hilly Sloan giving an illustrated talk about "Goodwood House" until Monday 16th November.

Non-members are welcome to log in and watch. We are particularly concerned for those members who are not online, as they miss these talks. We would encourage them to ask family members or friends to help them find a suitable viewing platform. Our October Newsletter with Local News will be printed and delivered to members for whom we have no email address.

JUST FOR FUN

How many?

1. How many books are there in the New Testament? A) 27 B) 29 C) 37 D) 39
2. How many of Jesus' brothers are named in the Bible? A) 0 B) 2 C) 4 D) 7
3. After Jesus healed 10 lepers, how many of them praised God with a loud voice and thanked Jesus? A) 0 B) 1 C) 5 D) 10
4. How many attributes did the apostle Paul use to describe the fruit of the Spirit? A) 9 B) 10 C) 11 D) 12
5. According to the book of Leviticus, in which year after the planting of a tree were the Israelites allowed to eat its fruit? A) 1st B) 3rd C) 5th D) 7th
6. Gideon defeated the Midianites with how many men? A) 300 B) 3,000 C) 30,000 D) 300,000
7. How many years did the Israelites wander in the wilderness before entering the Promised Land? A) 4 B) 7 C) 40 D) 70
8. How many sons did Naomi have? A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4
9. How many times did God call out to young Samuel in the night in the temple of the Lord before Samuel responded to Him? A) 1 B) 2 C) 3 D) 4
10. How many days and nights did it rain for when Noah was in the ark? A) 7 B) 40 C) 99 D) 150

Who was the first farmer mentioned in the Bible?

Abel's brother, Cain, is identified as the first farmer (Genesis 4:2). The Bible calls the worker of land a "tiller" or "plower" He is closely associated with God in Scripture, since it is God who instructs and works closely with him in producing the crops.

The harvestman and reaper (mentioned in Ruth and Isaiah) are, apparently, two names for the same task of harvesting the crops. It is likely, also, that the farmer served as his own harvester. The gleaner is different. By gleaning what farmers left in the field, the poor and landless obtained food.

ANSWERS

1. A 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. B 9. D 10. B
1. A 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. B 9. D 10. B
1. A 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. B 9. D 10. B
1. A 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. B 9. D 10. B
1. A 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. B 9. D 10. B
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1. A 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. B 9. D 10. B
1. A 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. B 9. D 10. B
1. A 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. B 9. D 10. B
1. A 2. C 3. B 4. A 5. C 6. A 7. C 8. B 9. D 10. B

ANAGRAM FOR OCTOBER

This month I am going to keep to the theme of Harvest.



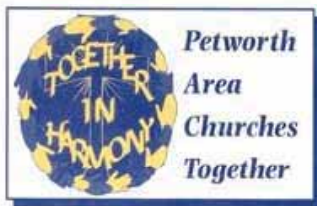
REMEMBER:

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

No capitalised words

How many words can you make from **GATHERING**

I managed to find a few food related words *Tea Ate Grain....and more.*



PACT AUTUMN LECTURE

Christian Mission in a Post-Covid World

John Baxter Brown is Chief Executive of
Global Connections



*With over 300 members, Global Connections
is a growing network of UK missions.*

All welcome

Gathering online from 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start

Friday 9th October 2020

via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86529015925>

Meeting ID: 865 2901 5925 [No password]

Not what they seem

Once upon a time, we were terrified of Tawny Owls. They were a portent of evil in fairy tales, folklore and just about every scary story, film or poem that needed a creepy cliché. But in today's crowded marketplace of international terrorism, climate change and saturated fats the owl's powers to scare us are fading. Recently, it appears this spokesman of the supernatural has got itself a new publicist. Its modern image is one of a cuddly pin-up, more Harry Potter than Hammer Horror.



But stand in the woods on a moonlit night and listen for an unseen owl's ethereal call. It's an ancient, unnerving sound that still speaks to something buried deep within us and ignites a primeval fear. The Tawny Owl is the largest and commonest of our island's five owl species, typically nesting in holes in old trees in our remaining woodlands. But what is it about this bird that has given us the willies throughout history? Let's start with those huge, lifeless black eyes that seem to stare into your very soul. An owl's eyes are not spherical but tubular like two telescopes and give amazing vision at low light levels. However, the eye's stretched shape and position on the owl's face presents a narrow field of vision. To compensate, a Tawny Owl has special bones and blood vessels in its neck so it can perform that freaky, Exorcist-like head twist. This gives the bird the ability to scan all around without having to move their bodies and arouse detection by prey.



And in the world of a nocturnal hunter, silence and stealth are everything. Special serrated feathers slice the air, allowing it to fly as silently as a phantom and aerially ambush its victims. Incredible hearing achieved by asymmetrical ears allows them to accurately pinpoint the rustle of a nervous vole below. They can hear fear.

And then there's that disembodied voice arising from the darkness. The male's far-carrying baritone 'hooo-huhuhuhooo' and the female's squawky 'kerr-wik' response are like a mis-matched duet between Johnny Cash and Janet Street-Porter. These calls help establish, maintain and defend a breeding territory and from October the birds are at their most vocal. Of course, Tawny Owls really couldn't give two hoots about scaring us but throughout history these spectral calls have provided a soundtrack to our deepest fears. In a society which is becoming increasingly detached from nature, it's time to get out into the woods this Halloween and allow ourselves to be unsettled once again by these mystical birds.



Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS

We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine
and soft refreshing rain.

*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the
Lord
for all his love.*

He only is the maker
of all things near and far;
he paints the wayside flower,
he lights the evening star;
the wind and waves obey him,
by him the birds are fed;
much more to us his children,
he gives our daily bread.

Words: after Matthias Claudius, Jane Campbell

See Page 9 for more details about this hymn.

All good gifts...

We thank you, then, O Father,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food:
accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts;
and that which you most welcome,
our humble, thankful hearts.

All good gifts...



Photo on the front cover is of harvesting, taken by Chris Fitton from Kithurst Hill, Storrington, in July 2020, while watching the red kites flying overhead.