

Steyning and Ashurst

Church Magazine

SEPTEMBER 2020



ISSUED FREE

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
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Ordinand in Training: Caroline Armitage MA (Cantab.) 07789 915988
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Our services at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's resumed on 12 July. There is one service on a Sunday, a said Eucharist with organ music at 9:30am, and, from 2 September we will resume the 11:30am midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays.

At St James's in September we will hold a Eucharist on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, and there is a 'Zoom' service of Prayer Book Matins on the first Sunday. 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 summer for those who need to stay at home for the sake of their health.

Fr Mark, Vicar of Steyning and Rector of Ashurst

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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,

Some years ago the celebrity, Noel Edmonds said something about the power of prayer:

Some believers stand on a cliff and look at the breaking waves, some look at the moon. Me, I wrote an order, addressed 'Dear Cosmos'. And it worked: a new house in the south of France, a new job, restored fame and fortune ...

Perhaps we should not be surprised by Noel's success. People, throughout history, have got into the habit of seeking help in their lives from mysterious powers they cannot understand. Some people might think of this as casting magic spells or making wishes, others in terms of the psychological power of autosuggestion. Traditionally, of course, most cultures have called it prayer.

Who or what it is who grants these requests? Does the fact that Christians and other mainstream denominations believe there is one true God rule out a range of other dark and mysterious forces in the universe that cannot be explained, some of them more-or-less kind and benevolent, others darker and more sinister? Jesus himself, using the language of his day, took it for granted that there were supernatural forces, not all of them good. (See for example, Matthew 12.25-29.)

Just as important from the Christian point of view is what we pray for. If I really believed that mysterious forces could help me win the roll-over jackpot on the lottery, perhaps my wishes would come true. But Christians know that there are so many better things to pray for, from a dear friend on the prayer list to those working to discover a vaccine to counter Covid-19, not to mention those who work tirelessly for an end to war and other world evils.

Jesus knew that true faith can move mountains (see Matthew 17.20) but when he was tempted in the wilderness, he ruled out praying for riches or fame or the supernatural powers of a superhero (Matthew 4.1-11). In prayer in the garden at Gethsemane, his Father taught him not to pray even for life itself (Matthew 26.39). But perhaps Noel Edmonds has never read the New Testament.

As St Paul wrote: (Philippians 4.6-9):

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Cont. on page 4

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Fr Mark

MINISTRY TEAM

After prayerful consideration and consultation with the Bishop, Fr Stephen and David have decided not to go to Moulsecomb, and they ask for everyone's prayers as they seek to discern God's will for Fr Stephen's next appointment. We look forward to having them as part of our community for a little longer. Meanwhile we welcome Caroline Armitage and her husband, Andrew, as she begins a two-year ministry placement whilst she trains towards ordination. See page 5 overleaf for more details.

Fr Mark

HARVEST FESTIVALS

Our Harvest Festivals will be held as shown below. They will feel slightly different because of Covid precautions. Please look for more details in the October magazine and see this month's item about food donations for Family Support Work on page 11.

- St Andrew's & St Cuthman's 9:30am 4 October
- St James's Ashurst 10:30am 11 October (outside service)

FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to the September edition of this Church magazine. Our prayers and thanks are with our team of clergy for all they do for us, whether we are able to get to Church or not. Thanks also to the team who regularly ensure we get this magazine

There is so much in this edition for you to enjoy, so, thank you for continuing to send articles in to me keep them coming.

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

steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

CAROLINE ARMITAGE

From September this year Caroline Armitage will be joining us in the ministry team as a Lay Reader and Ordinand. The title 'Ordinand' is Church of England speak for a Trainee Priest, and Caroline and her husband Andrew will be spending the next two years with us as she completes her training. Caroline writes:



"Some of you may remember me from autumn a few years ago when Andrew and I spent several weeks with the Steyning congregation as I undertook training as a Lay Reader. Since then the Lord has taken me on quite a journey! Andrew and I have lived in the area for 10 years, and brought up our children in Horsham before that. We live in part of Washington just the other side of the A24, and since we've been in this area we have worshiped in what is now known as Chanctonbury Parish. Life for me is a full mixture of working life, parish life, and family life. We have two adult children and our daughter and her husband have just had their third child. So we have the delight (and exhaustion) of being grandparents to three delightful energetic little boys. Both Andrew and I are fully involved in Parish and local life. I try to avoid admitting that professionally I am a lawyer, as it usually elicits groans. I specialise in charity law and corporate governance for those that means anything to. Social justice is close to my heart - and I have always felt personally the call in Mathew 25 to reach out and help the hungry, the thirsty and the prisoner so have been involved in a number of charities and other social enterprises over the years.

During the time I trained as a Lay Reader, and as my ministry has developed, I became increasingly convinced that God was calling me to ordained ministry. But unfortunately it soon became apparent that my age was against me. However various conversations were had at the Diocese and as a result Bishop Martin felt it was right for me to enter the process to discern if this was a calling that was right for me and the church. That was a bit of a miracle in itself. Being selected for training was another one!

As I come to Steyning I am excited to get to know you all, to experience worship in a tradition different from that in Chanctonbury, and to help and contribute to the life of the Parish as I learn those skills I will need as a priest in the future"

All the best

Caroline

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ANNA NORMAN

The memorial service for Anna was planned for September 5, but due to the ongoing restrictions the family have decided to hold it on April 17 2021 which will mark the anniversary of her death.

WEDDINGS AND BAPTISMS



Our Congratulations to these couples who were married in August.

August 8 David Geoghegan and Josephine Thornton

August 21 Andrew Bromley and Alexandra Catlow



The wedding of David and Jo on August 8



Baptism held in Steyning Parish Church

August 16

We welcome **Poppy Rose Warner** into the church of God

PAUSE AND PRAY

Jesus, our companion,
when we are driven to despair,
Help us, through the friends and strangers
we encounter on our path,
to know you as our refuge,
our way, our truth and our life.
Amen

God, our Father, whose Son enjoyed the love of friends, Mary, Martha and Lazarus, in learning, argument and hospitality:

May we so rejoice in your love; that the world may come to know the depths of your wisdom, the wonder of your compassion, and your power to bring life out of death:

Through the merits of Jesus Christ, our friend and brother, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

IN MEMORY OF.....

'YEAR'S MIND'

Every edition of the Weekly Bulletin includes the names of those who have died, who we keep in mind according to the week of their death. There is no charge for this. If you would like to include a departed relation or friend, please send an email to office@steyningparishchurch.org

Please include the person's full name and the date of death in the email.

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 SEPTEMBER

HOLY CROSS DAY September 14

Almighty God,

who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace:

grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for his sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

MATTHEW THE APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST September 21

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist:

give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS September 29

Everlasting God,

You have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order:

Grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth;

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.

MARY AND MARTHA

Mary Martha and Lazarus were friends of Jesus, and I suspect they didn't see him as often as they would have liked, so when he came knocking at the door – well, great excitement.

After the squeals of delight both sisters then fell into being the people, the personalities, they were.

One was full of the practicalities of looking after their friends, preparing the beautiful food, making sure everyone was welcome, and everything was ready and comfortable, and there she is in the foreground of the front cover picture. Her name is Martha. Interestingly, the name Martha means "Lady of the House" – so perhaps she is the main one responsible for running the household, and so the important person within the home. She must have seen that Jesus looked a little weary from his day of travelling and in need of a lovely meal and some pampering. Was she also feeding all the disciples too?



We are then told simply that Martha had a sister called Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet. Mary had a different personality, and was content simply to be. She was thoughtful and contemplative, and so very, very happy to sit and listen to Jesus the teacher. She always gave others her undivided attention, and she must have thought it a real privilege to be able to hear the Son of God.

This story goes on to say that Martha got herself all steamed up about doing all the work herself – well she was missing all the news as well as the wise and precious words from their dear friend Jesus – so she goes straight to the important one in the room to demand....

'Lord, don't you care that my sister left me to serve alone? Ask her therefore to help me.'

How many times have we felt a bit like that? When a little stressed over a situation have you not felt like having a grumble? Do you pick up the phone and call a friend, or go on social media, or do you go into a quiet place just to be by yourself? Different people do different things, but there is something to be said to know to whom to go. Jesus is always there for us to choose to go to Him.

Martha definitely needed to talk to someone, and she chose Jesus to talk to, even interrupting what he was saying to Mary. If you look carefully at the picture you will see how intently the artist has depicted Mary and Jesus' conversation.

Martha's grumble was a sisterly comparison look at all I am doing, and just see please - Mary is doing nothing but listening to you.

These sorts of snapshot comparisons never tell the full story, and so Jesus listens carefully to Martha's side and does not tell her off for interrupting or for having a grumble, but He offers her a peaceful way forward. He can see the whole story. He reminds Martha – and now us – what to be concerned about, where to focus, and what should take a front seat in our lives - our relationship with Him.

Chris Fitton

SAINT OF THE MONTH

GREGORY THE GREAT (540-604)

POPE AND APOSTLE OF THE ENGLISH

One of the most important Popes and influential writers of the Middle Ages, Gregory was the son of a senator of Rome and entered the service of the State but came to Faith and sold his huge estates giving the money for the erection of seven monasteries. In 574 he entered one of the monasteries and was known for his austere life and his generosity to the poor.

Pope Benedict I called him out of the monastery to an influential position in Rome after which he became the Pope's ambassador in Byzantium. Gregory felt called back to monasticism and became Abbot of St Andrew's in Rome. He hoped to lead some missionaries to bring the Gospel to the Anglo-Saxons having been impressed by seeing Anglo-Saxon slaves on sale in the Roman market. However he was frustrated in this goal by being elected Pope in 590.

Although he was faced by crises in Italy (floods, famine and plague) he also managed to assist the other western Churches and gave them support in the conversion of barbarian peoples to Christianity.

Gregory personally took the lead in the conversion of the Anglo-Saxons and sent a large-scale mission led by Augustine and his monks on this hazardous undertaking. After their initial success, Gregory still directed the mission by giving guidance in matters which Augustine found perplexing. This policy was continued by Gregory's successors as Pope so much so that it was said that the Church in England was closer to the papacy than the Church in Gaul.



Bede in his *Historia Ecclesiastica* called Gregory "the Apostle of the English" and "he from whom we have received the Christian Faith". Later, devotion to Augustine and Aidan obscured the importance of Gregory but, by choosing the personnel for the mission and by his direction, encouragement and support, he was both pioneer and continuator in bringing the Faith to England.

Gregory's role in the development of the liturgy was considerable leading to the use of the *Gregorian Sacramentary* and the standardisation of plainsong which became known as Gregorian chant. In the life of the Church as a whole Gregory's papacy is seen as decisive in the development of the Church and it was said he deserved the title "the Great". However, Gregory was a man of humility and his preferred title was "the servant of the servants of God". In his latter years he suffered ill health and died in 604. He was soon declared a saint; his feast day is 3rd September.



LET THERE BE LIGHT

The Lighting and Electrics team are back in action ready to send out enquiries for tendering for the church lighting project in the early part of September. The PCC members meeting in November will then be able to invite a contractor with the commitment to start the installation of the lighting and electrics at the end of January 2021. Completion date will be by Easter.

The above work is a result of the generosity of many, including

- members of the congregation
- the Friends of Steyning Parish Church
- the local community.

In all we have collected an impressive amount of £53,000 to date, despite the coronavirus.

THANK YOU



LET THERE BE LIGHT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all those who have made donations towards the

"let there be light"

fundraising campaign, greatly appreciated. As of the beginning of August we have £53,000 in the kitty with £17,000 still to meet the target.

For those of you who are still pondering about donating towards a selected lighting area as presented on the display boards in the church porch, the list below shows the areas that are available to fund.

Queen Ann Hatchment	Organ pipes	Pendants (6)
North wall arches facing nave (2)	East Wall (unique arch)	Lectern
Tudor Wooden screen	Prayer corner	Altar
South wall arches facing nave (2)	Choir seating area	Pulpit
Centre window (backlighting)		
Altar reredos (11) (centre, the commandments, the patterns)		
Existing chandelier re-sited to St Cuthman's chapel (renovated)		
External lighting (3) North-east corner, South east corner, South Door		



Please note:

A few of these areas may be funded by a small group. Should you wish to discuss your choice in greater detail please contact **me**, Jim Lang, on 01903 816701

Jim Lang Co-ordinator

CHRISTIAN AID YEMEN APPEAL

Yemen is currently suffering from the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today, according to the UN.

A staggering total of fourteen million Yemeni people are now at risk of starvation. Those at greatest risk are also some of the most vulnerable members of society. Yemen is also currently facing the world's worst-ever recorded cholera outbreak. The sheer scale and magnitude of this ongoing crisis is huge and unprecedented in recent times, yet at Christian Aid we must not allow ourselves to be overwhelmed. Instead, we must recognise the suffering that the Yemeni people are facing each and every day, allowing ourselves to be spurred into action to support these vulnerable, impoverished people.

Christian Aid teams are active on the ground, providing much-needed food and essential medical relief. The vital work that we are able to do through our Yemen appeal really is helping us to save innocent lives.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk> and press the red button to donate.

HARVEST FOOD BANK



With harvest in mind, Sue and I have been thinking how best we can supply our Food Bank with the necessary items needed, both in money and food donations this year. FSW like to fill their food coffers at Harvest so that our families can be sustained during the winter months. We think that there are several ways in which you can help:

- 1 **Donating money to FSW** via their website www.familysupportwork.org then go to Donate.
- 2 **Donating by cheque** to: Family Support Work, Garton House, 22 Stanford Ave., Brighton BN1 6AA
- 3 **Cheques** made out to: Steyning Parish Church PCC (Family Support Work)
- 4 **Toiletries and non perishable food** to be left in The Vicarage Front Doorstep Basket

Sue and I want to stress that during these last months your thoughtful and generous money donations have been a tremendous help. They have meant that the Support Practitioners have been able to buy food and toiletries for each of our families.

Thank you.

With our love,

Sue and Wendy



NEW FORMAT GARDEN PARTY

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Sat 29th-Mon 31st Aug,
10am to 4pm each day,



A stall on our drive (**33 Roman Rd**) selling fruit, veg, flowers and cards specially made for us by Simon Knowles.

We will donate the takings to the **Children's Society**.
Please do come and support our 'alternative' Garden Party.

Jill and Roger Brown.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER - PREPARATION

Preparation Day Conference in October

If all goes well there will be a Preparation Day Conference on 1 October 2020. It will be held at the Friary Church and Hall in Crawley. This year it will be only half a day long and held under strict 'Covid-safe' restrictions. Numbers are limited but I would really appreciate the offer of some help at the Preparation Day from a few of our congregation so that you will know more about '*Build on a Strong Foundation*', the service written by women of Vanuatu.

In Steyning, Bramber and Beeding the Methodist, Baptist, Catholic and Anglican Churches of St Andrew & St Cuthman, and St Peters, take turns to host the annual World Day of Prayer service. Our church, Steyning Parish Church, will be hosting the World Day of Prayer service on 5 March 2021.

Please contact me on 01903 817144 if you are interested.

Elizabeth Brown

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT VANUATU?

Continent:	Asia	Capital City:	Port-Vila	Government:	Parliament Republic
Population:	282,814	Religion:	Christian 94.08%, Ethno 3.40%, Baha'i 1.80%		
Language:	Bislama, English, French				

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.**

STEYNING PRIMARY SCHOOL - GOODBYE Y6

We were SO lucky that we were able to welcome back 52 of the Y6 children who applied for a place in a bubble. It was amazing to see all their faces again, and despite the fact they missed out on their SATs, Residential to the Isle of Wight, Bikeability and their leavers production, they all came back smiling and ready to enjoy their last few weeks at Steyning Primary!

When we realised they would be missing out on so much the Year 6 teachers - Miss Messina and Miss O'Brian - sat down with Mrs Harrison (headteacher) to figure out a way to make the children's leaving celebrations one of a kind: one where no other pupil from SPS could say 'oh we did that too'! It was when Miss O'Brian spotted an advert for a silent disco company (Hush Beats Silent Disco) that the big plan began. It was the start of SteynFest 2020!

As soon as the children found out about our plans, the buzz and excitement began. In their bubbles the children used DT and collaborative skills to create decorations including tissue flowers, tassels and the STEYNFEST lettering. They agreed that the dress code should be festival themed - wellies were welcomed along with glitter, sequins, tassels and outrageous shirts!

The festival began at 2:30pm and it kick started with the children in their bubbles participating in hilarious socially distanced games, Pictionary, face muddles and challenges to complete! After much hysteria, at 3:30pm, we sat on the field and had the annual Year 6 awards ceremony presented by head teacher Sue Harrison and sports coach Simon Knowles. Thanks to technology, our parents joined us on Facebook Live and as always it was an emotional assembly celebrating the wonderful children we have at SPS.



By 4pm tummies were rumbling so we got the BBQ going. The children all enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, snacks and drinks kindly donated by businesses in our local community. Once fed, they were ready to get their dancing shoes on. There were some great dance moves from children and staff alike, lots of smiles and plenty of pictures taken!



At 5:30pm it was time for the Year 6s to leave the building! They took with them a goody bag each filled with vouchers and treats from lots of local businesses and from the teachers, all held together by a balloon. Our wonderful staff all made sure the class of 2020 got the traditional Steyning Primary clap. We all stood 2m apart creating a walk way for the children being met by their families!

We were so lucky to be able to have 60 of our Year 6s back that afternoon and for those who couldn't make it, we delivered their bag of treats to their houses so we could say goodbye properly from a distance. It feels so good that we were able to see all of our pupils before they left us to move onto the next chapter in their education. We wish them all the best at their new schools and hope that they pop back a let us know how they're getting on!

To top it all off, on their actual last day, we shared a video which we had been putting together for them since the start of lockdown. It was a fantastic success and every pupil had only seen their own part until Friday at 2:45 when we shared the finished product with them! We chose to use the song Hall of Fame by The Script and Will.I.am - the song was split into 63 parts to make sure every pupil would star in it.. and their Year 6 teachers of course!

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You can see the video on our YouTube Channel by searching **Steyning Primary School - Year 6 Leavers 2020**.

We would like to thank the following companies for their support and generosity in helping SteynFest 2020 being so wonderful!

Friends of Steyning Primary School (FSPS) for their generosity in helping to fund the event. Co-Op Steyning, Chartwells and Martin's Newsagents for donating food and drinks for the BBQ.

Hush Beats Silent Disco - for allowing us to hire the headsets for the children to let them dance the afternoon away.

Goody Bags:

Steyning Tennis Club for offer of lessons

Steyning Sweet Shop for the bags of sweets.

Steyning Tea Rooms for the ice cream vouchers.

Steyning Bookshop for the books and bookmarks.

Steyning Leisure Centre for the sports vouchers.

Truffles Steyning for the gorgeous individually boxed cupcakes.

Our wonderful staff for supporting the event, teaching our Year 6 bubbles and celebrating with the children.

Our families for their positivity and supporting us throughout the year and during Covid-19.



Here are some quotes from pupils who have just left Year 6:

"Even though we have missed out on so much this year, Steynfest and the leavers video has made Year 6 2020 a year to remember! Thank you so much to everyone who made it possible." **Haidee Boyt**

loads of really nice teachers. Thank you so much for doing the leavers party- we all had so much fun!" **Amos Misra**

Here are some quotes from parents of children who have just left Year 6:

Thank you so much again for making their last few weeks so special, it is just what they all needed and I know it made up for all the disappointment. For all the time they missed you and all the other teachers who came in made up for it ten times over, so thank you from the bottom of our hearts for making it happen.....you should feel very proud too. **Lara Boyt**.

"We could not have asked for more from Steyning primary school. Not only did Amos have a fantastic year but the teachers went above and beyond for the end of Year 6 celebrations. A huge thank you." **Pauline and Manu Misra**



"The teachers put so much thought and generosity into Steynfest for the Year6 Leavers. My daughter loved the silent disco and the BBQ. It was a very special day of friendship, celebration and treats. I know the wonderful Year6 teachers will be missed by so many of the kids. Thank you!" **Christine Hewitt**

Lizzie Messina-Reeve KS2 Leader



TEACHING IN LOCKDOWN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

To be honest, we all knew it was coming. There were a few in the staff room who were optimistic but closure was going to happen. I started preparing by getting as many resources as I thought I would need a few weeks before the official announcement came. Little did I know at that time that the kitchen table would become my classroom and office for so many months.

Originally we thought we would be back at the end of the Easter break. That sailed past with the death rate at an all time high, there was no way we could go back. After half term was the date we all expected and even that didn't happen for most of our students. September is green to go for the moment but with guidance and updates changing on a daily basis at times it's more of a case of fingers crossed than any given certainty.

There have been, as everyone would expect, highs and lows of teaching at home.

Lows have been the loss of the camaraderie in the staff room, the sharing of victories and absolute disasters, not being able to support students as you could in the classroom, the common phrase of "I don't get it" proved more problematic as students found it hard to write down exactly what they didn't get. Not being able to support student progress as much as you would like was tough and having to try and balance the needs of my own family and child with work and trying to teach at the same time and the negative media surrounding the profession was not always much fun. Everyone was doing their best, private schools closed a week earlier in some instances to give full training and ensure staff were provided with all the equipment needed and they were able to give "live lessons" straight away, but when you're paying a lot of money, you expect that. Plus, where are you going to get new classrooms from? And the teachers? But I digress.

Teaching remotely is much harder in some respects, there's training needs, equipment needs, space needs and the reliability of the school network as well as your own provider.

Online teaching evolved as time went on and thank goodness I could Google most of what I ended up doing as I had no idea how to do much of it and it all depended on what device you used or didn't use. There are some amazing people out there who really know their stuff and how to make it easy to understand.

But there have been many highs and entertaining moments too.

Having time with my little one which I would not ever have had, has been amazing, watching her develop and grow was wonderful. We've had fun in the garden, crafted and gone on walks in our local area and have found a new appreciation in the area in which we live. I have become incredibly proficient at all things Google, Google docs, Google slides, Google forms, Google meet and Google classroom. Learnt to film myself teach and become even more

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grateful to the community of online teachers who magically can resource you with the most random thing you need in less than 5 minutes, honestly, who only scans the odd pages of a revision book? My Head of Faculty, that's who!

As a school we have come together even more and as a team we are closer than ever, even though we have been apart for so long.

Students became used to hearing my little one randomly doing things while I was live teaching, building towers, having snack time, squealing with delight over her toys and games. A more memorable moment was getting rather cross with a class for not following the guidance on how to answer exam questions and in the next breath having to coax socks back on feet.....much to her and their delight. To start with, she enjoyed bobbing her head into meetings to see who I was talking too (mainly to check if grandparents were likely to make an appearance and being bitterly disappointed) as well as having her nap on me while I was in meetings as well. Plus, colleagues learnt the opening credits to Hey Duggee and Peter Rabbit, much to their delight.

I had some great email conversations with parents and there was always the debate of working from home with teenagers or a toddler, most preferred having a moody teenager to a rampaging toddler. Looking at the state of my lounge sometimes, I could see why!

Overall it has been a tough experience for everyone, and school for many families provided stability and a routine. My students had the same lessons I would have done in the school room lesson, but without some of the more fun bits, like group work (apparently you could set it up but that went way beyond my skills) and class discussions. They had feedback every lesson on work handed in and I could really see some students progress and many flourished with the online experience. I return to school in September. There are many challenges ahead but I have learnt a lot about myself and what I can do when I put my mind to it. Am I looking forward to it? Yes and no, but I know that the biscuit cupboard won't be in such easy reach so maybe it is a good thing..

Becky Walker

Thank you Becky for your personal insight to Grammar School teaching during Lockdown, and we wish you and colleagues well as the new term unfolds for all the students.

Thank you, also, to teachers at the Primary School - for all you were able to do for all your pupils too, and especially the fun for Y6. We wish you all well for the Autumn Term as you develop the news ways that school will necessarily become.

A prayer for schools:

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. Amen.



SPRINGTIME

Summer, autumn, winter and spring. The seasons change me as they whirl past: one moment I'm a cluster of colour, bedecked in every shade of green; the next I'm naked, bare and stripped of beauty. Yet the same happens every year, has done for hundreds. It makes me realise how insignificant I am – just one among the thousands of others that have come before me.

Nothing really changes.

In springtime, my favourite season, the realisation is stronger. Fields of soft grass are sprinkled with orchid, meadow-sweet, thrift and columbine; they smell and look the same, always have, always will. Spring comes every year and, mostly, it's the same. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't make the most of every Eden we're given. Why, who knows what the future holds? This spring could be the last we ever see.

I've stood and lived for longer than you, but even I get the thrill when the scent of lily-of-the-valley reaches my soul and the song of the wood thrush makes me shiver. Every year, I watch birds make their nests, chicks take their first flights, and hedgehogs awaken. I know which will survive and which won't. I'm a home to new life and new birth.

Oh, if every season were spring, there would be no cause for sadness, anger and frustration. All we'd have to do is take a few steps and look around. And we'd be reminded how lucky we are to witness this incredible new lease of life.

A daisy poking his sweet little head out of a crack in the ground, an apple blossom tree shimmering with silky pink – or look up at the sky, with all its millions of blues blurring into each other, patchworked together by puffs of clean white cloud. How easy, just to tilt back your head, and suddenly there's a whole new world out there.

This spring, though, something feels different. More birds are in my branches. More animals are roaming free. The rivers flow clear and pure, and tadpoles that were hidden beneath murky surfaces are emerging. Mountaintops are becoming visible. Nature is increasing.

The sound that has always been there, in the background, has lessened, and that makes it easier to think. I've got used to those noisy springtimes, but now I see that the quiet ones were there all along, hidden under layers of commotion from everyday life. Some loud inaudible noise inside of me has vanished, and at the moment, I feel at peace. Everything to do with spring – crocuses materialising from buds, the heavy, azure skies drawn over the earth like a blanket, miles and miles of calm fields – is enhanced; it overflows with other-earthly charm.

The meadows lie untamed; the ground is teeming with narcissus, hyacinth, cowslip and primrose. No feet are there to trample these cups of beauty this spring. The ugly metal machines that belch out black fog are gone

Cont on next page

Peace is restored and for once I have hope. I've never realised how much I miss these blissful days of quiet. Maybe, just maybe, the same will happen next spring.

Of course, things are constantly changing and shifting; one thing never stays the same for long. If only the humans could see how tranquil it is, I know they, like me, would do all they could to keep it this way.

But I haven't seen them for days; they're gone. How do I bring them back?

By Molly Jones aged 11

Molly lives in Kent and is the granddaughter of Ray and Maureen Jones. She wrote this for a contest entitled Journalist for Tomorrow, the brief was 600 words on Springtime, and was open to young people aged 11 – 16. Molly was a runner up.

GOD, WHERE ARE YOU?

Regularly the cry goes up in the midst of strife, terrible disasters, wars and Pandemics, "Where was God?" This was very much the case in the 1st World War Trench Battles, in the 2nd World War Concentration Camps, in all the areas of the world suffering from unspeakable conditions. God, Where were you? God, Where are you? The Hermits living in the deserts of the Holy Land in the 4th. Century had a succinct answer to this Question :- "GOD IS NOT ELSEWHERE".

When I was working in the Home of Healing in Crowhurst and someone who was lonely was anxious about returning to an empty House, I used to give them a card of a prayer which the 4th century Christian Hermits might have said AMEN to. Here it is :-

The Light of God surrounds me;
The Love of God enfolds me;
The power of God protects me;
The presence of God watches over me;
Wherever I am, God is.

Ray Jones

MAGAZINE DEADLINE for OCTOBER 2020

FRIDAY 4 SEPTEMBER

Email address: steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

SHRUG OFF THE INSTINCT FOR SAFETY

".....SO,WHAT has been revealed by this crisis which may enable us to see the future shape of ministry? Let me make four suggestions.

FIRST we are seeing the emergence of a new generation of lay leaders. Since we had to close the church buildings, people have had to learn to pray at home, and, in many cases, have been well resourced by their clergy to do so. When people start praying, God's call is heard.

.....Across the country, new lay leaders are emerging in a way that no number of diocesan initiatives or officers could have imagined possible.....We cannot go back to how things were. We now need to be ready to honour and acknowledge this new generation of lay leaders who have learnt how to use their gifts in Christ's service, and who will not be happy to be mere consumers again. While this will pose a huge challenge to church leaders, the potential for confident ministry in the community and the workplace is vast.

SECOND, we have seen the centrality of the parish as the core unit of mission. For decades it has been fashionable to run down the parish and make out that it is all part of that furniture of "inherited church" which we need to ditch. This has damaged the morale of many parish clergy, who can feel undervalued and extraneous..... Anglican life requires the bedrock of robust and stable parish ministry. It is time to end our ambiguity about the parish and take a fresh pride in the way it serves the nation.

THIRD, we have seen the need for a priesthood which is both agile and sacramentally confident. These are sometimes seen as opposites, but they should not be.

This long period of eucharistic fasting has been incredibly painful, and has demonstrated in most Christians a deep sacramental yearning. If God's people are to be fed, equipped, taught and sent, we need to cherish the gift of priestly ministry..... Ministry will change post - Covid. But less because of a lack of money than because of a different evangelistic setting.

.....AND FOURTH, we have seen the need for leadership models based on release, not control. This is true in a church for any clergy wanting to build up lay leadership; but it is a principle that we need to apply more widely.

.....If a nation is, indeed, turning again to its Church, now is not the time to withdraw and manage decline. This crisis is showing us patterns of ministry which can enable us to reconnect with the culture and recapture imaginations with the gospel.

We need to....be ready to risk everything - even our bank balances - in the mission that Christ calls us to share with him. But, then, since Jesus has already won the victory, what have we got to lose?"

The Rt Revd Philip North, the Bishop of Burnley

Article from The Church times

DON'T EAT IN CHURCH

I started at West Buckland School in North Devon on the fringe of Exmoor in September 1941 at the age of 9 ½ . I wouldn't normally have gone at that age but it was wartime and my father was in a transport job and frequently had to move to live from place to place. As a result, during the previous year I had had one term at a school in Reading and another two in Swindon. My parents obviously wanted me to get more settled and arranged for me to start at West Buckland where he had been before the First World War.

I went on to spend eight years there but I cannot pretend that my first year was a happy one. Three months at school without a break because there was no half-term and the only means of communication with my parents was by letter. Mobile phones did not exist and the school line was only for emergency use. However, there were five of us at a similar age and as I was able to make friends life gradually improved.

Although the lady in charge of catering did her very best in spite of rationing to provide 160 boys plus masters and other staff with three meals a day, it was a very basic breakfast, lunch and High Tea, and a lot depended on how much your mother was able to supply you with a few extras such as jam or paste. Normally, everyone sat at one of four long tables in the Dining Hall but the five of us youngsters had a little table in the corner at the far end of the Dining Hall.

From Monday to Saturday breakfast simply consisted of porridge followed by "Scrape" which was simply slices of bread on which had been scraped a thin layer of margarine. However, on Sunday mornings there was also a slice of bacon and a sausage. For Sunday Morning Service the whole school walked the mile down the road to East Buckland Church. It was able to seat all the boys and the masters and the five of us youngsters had been allocated a pew in the front immediately under the pulpit. I can't remember which of us had the idea but we agreed that we would cut our sausages in half, put them in our handkerchiefs and take them to church. Then, when the elderly Vicar came into the pulpit to give his sermon, he would be looking out over the rostrum and would not see us when we got out our half sausages and started to eat them.

That proceeded without any difficulty until one Sunday, I don't know for what reason, our front pew was out of commission and we were all allocated to separate places throughout the church. I was put in a pew at the back right in front of all the masters. The Vicar went into the pulpit to give his sermon and what did I do? Idiot that I was, I got out my sausage and started to munch it. There was a tap on my shoulder. It was "Sam" Howells, the Headmaster, "Come and see me afterwards, boy"

It was a very nervous walk back to school. I went to Sam's study and received a lecture on the mistake of eating in church and the instruction "Go to your dormitory and put on your pyjamas, Boy". I did as instructed and when Sam appeared with his cane, I bent over the front of the bed and received three painful whacks on the bottom.

That was the last time I have ever eaten in Church – during a service!

Alastair McKechnie

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

During the Vietnam War, with so many helicopters in action, the nut which holds the rotor blades in place gained the nick-name “the Jesus Nut”. There are no accounts of this nut ever failing. In recent years the term has become more generally applied throughout engineering to include any single component whose failure would cause catastrophic failure of the entire system. These components, having the most important role to play, have regular and rigorous checks. Is it time to check our Jesus Nut is on tight?

A LIGHTER SIDE OF LOCKDOWN

Here is a Lockdown Psalm written by Professor Catherine Clarke from the Institute of Historical Research, University of London.

1. I have dwelt long in the house of lockdown: I have enclosed myself in the habitation of Netflix and groaning.
2. They have set me my bounds which I will not pass: I keep the statutes and observe the laws.
3. I entered into the supermarket but it was barren: its plenty was turned into empty shelves, and there was no toilet paper in it.
4. Neither was there delivery slots by day nor by night: verily, not even from Ocado
5. Deliver us from the wilderness of delivery: and deliver our deliveries unto us.
6. I am become a stranger unto the pub, and unto the office: even an alien to Pizza Express.
7. The sun ariseth, and I go forth to work and to my labour: even in my pyjamas until the evening.
8. I am weary of Zoom, my throat is dry: it melteth away like wax as my broadband vanisheth.
9. Yet they gape upon me with their mouths and say: thy toddler sitteth lurking in the corner of the screen, and lo he imagineth mischief.
10. And then, oh daughter of lockdown: thou shalt do thy phonics in exile.
11. Also thy literacy and numeracy work, and thy comprehension: yea verily, even thy fronted adverbials.
12. They have sprayed markers for my feet: they have set a place for me on the pavement outside Tesco Metro.
13. The unrighteous forget their social distancing: I swerve from their transgressions.
14. The people rebuke each other: and bear in their bosoms the rebukes of many people.
15. A mask hath covered my face and I wash my hands: neither have I found any hand sanitiser to comfort me.
16. The pestilence layeth siege against me: according to the cleanness of my hands shall I be recompensed.

From The Church Times

STEYNING GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Steyning Family Covid-19 Response



Since the end of March we have been delivering food and essentials parcels in conjunction with the Upper Beeding Community Hub. We have been delivering parcels to those in need in our Steyning Family. Each parcel costs between £40 and £50 and is delivered on a fortnightly basis. Some of those we support are completely reliant on those parcels.

We have been partly financing this operation, as well as relying on financial assistance from different sources including the generosity of our parents/carers. We have also been supported by local companies who have provided supplies as well as financial donations.



We have been using the school minibuses to deliver the parcels.

To keep the costs low we have been buying in bulk from our suppliers as well as looking for any opportunity to obtain donated items.

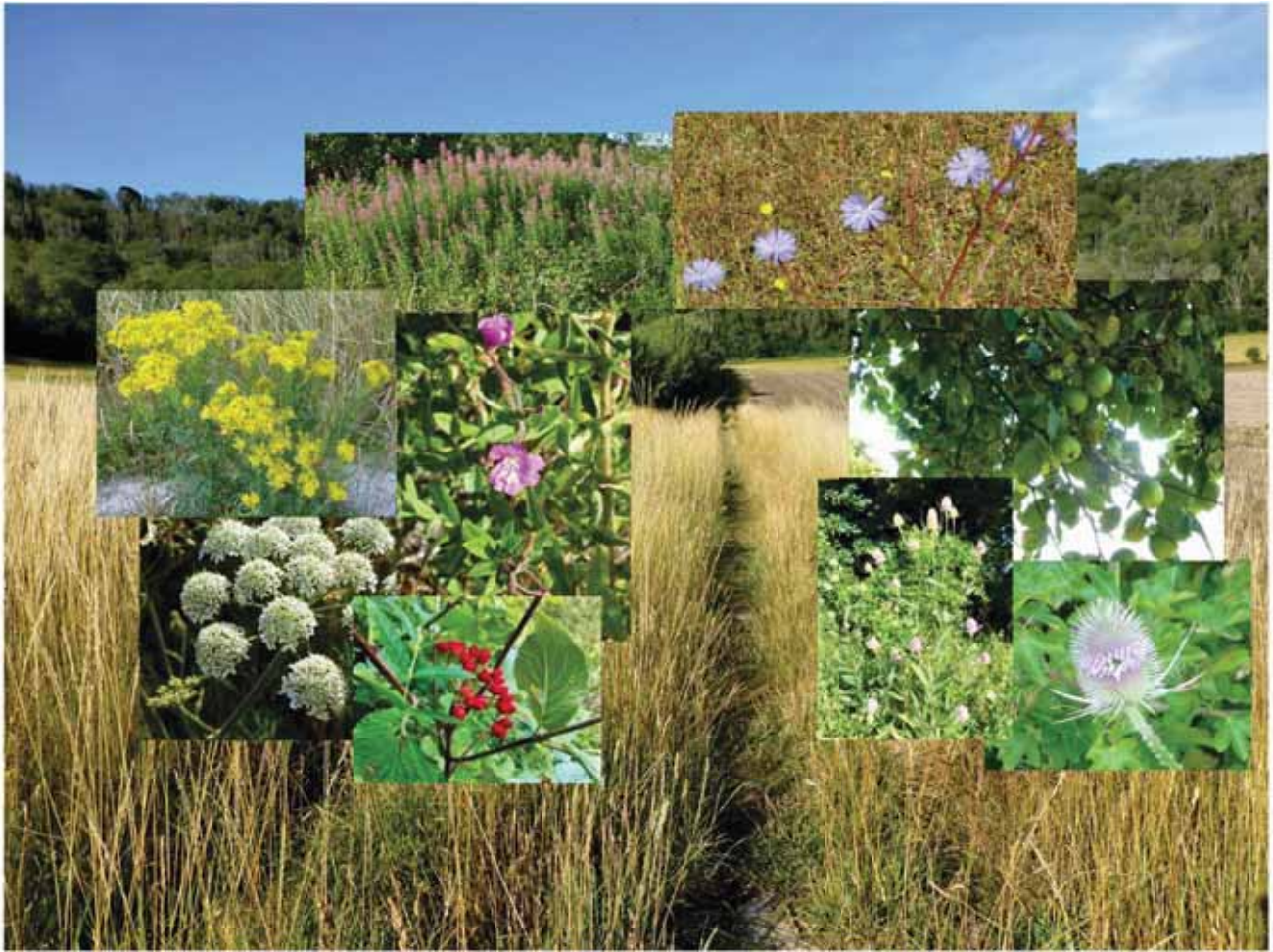
We are delivering to families in Billingshurst, Portslade and everywhere in between. Here is a summary of places/number of boxes we are delivering:

Small Dole - Henfield (16)/Hassocks (1)/Cowfold (1)	18
Partridge Green	11
Ashington (5)/Billingshurst (4)	9
Portslade (3)/Shoreham (8)	11
Steyning	38
Lancing- Sompting - Worthing (25)/Findon Village (2)	27
Amberley (6)/Pulborough (8)	14

*Stephanie Coomber
Development Officer for Steyning Grammar School*

The Editor reports: Steyning Parish Church PCC has financially supported this charitable effort

EARLY MORNING ON THE DOWNS



Jim Lang

THE CHURCH OF PEOPLE AND PLACE

"In these recent months of lockdown, the Church of England (C of E) has gained a great deal through creative forays into digital community and communications. That is here to stay. But we also need the rootedness of place. The C of E is the Church for the whole nation. We are the Church of people and place, not just congregation and parish church.

Of course our buildings, with their rich history, are especially important places. They are woven into the tapestry, the landscape, and carry the stories of the communities they serve. We look forward to weaving the stories of this terrible pandemic into the continuing chronicle that they convey.

But we are also the Church in the public square, and the Church that should be at home on the edges and margins, where new ideas and new communities flourish and form. We are called to honour, celebrate and understand the rich diversity and complicated history of the people and places we serve."

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

An extract from an article he wrote looking forward to his new ministry

RECIPE FOR SEPTEMBER

YOGHURT PIZZA BASE

- 300g/10½oz self-raising flour, plus extra for dusting
- 1 tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 300g/10½oz natural yoghurt

- 200C Fan/Gas 7



- To make the dough, combine the flour, baking powder and salt in a bowl and make a well in the middle.
- Pour in the yoghurt and stir with a fork to combine. When the mixture forms a rough dough, turn out onto a lightly floured work surface and knead to form a smooth ball.
- Divide the dough into 4 equal pieces and roll out into thin circles. Or, lightly flour a clean baking tray and roll out the dough to fit the baking tray with a slight overhang, trim to size.
- Carefully remove the hot baking trays from the oven and lay the pizza bases on top. Bake for 3-4 minutes until beginning to rise then remove from the oven.
- Top with pizza sauce (homemade or shop bought), cheese (a mix of cheddar and mozzarella works well but whatever you have at home or enjoy) and toppings of your choice.
- Bake in the oven for 10-12 minutes until the cheese is bubbling.
- Leave to cool for a few minutes then serve.

ENJOY!

THE STEYNING SOCIETY

The Steyning Society is showing all its talks online on You Tube. All you have to do is click on

<https://steyningsociety.org.uk/monthly-talks/>

Ian Gledhill is a real Brightonian. He has appeared in Pantomime with Julian Cleary and is an historian and very musical. His **talk** is titled

'I do like to be Beside the Seaside'

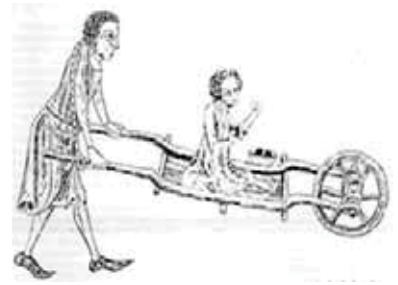
It runs from August 17th till September 14th.

From September 14th Dr Janet Pennington, the highly amusing historian of Steyning, takes us on

'An illustrated walk around Old Steyning' till October 12th.

You do not have to be a member but we hope you will join by clicking on

www.steyningsociety.org.uk £10 Single £15 Couple pa



PETWORTH HERITAGE WEEKEND

Enjoy a virtual experience of Petworth - we are going digital on the weekend of **19th & 20th September!**

The **Petworth Heritage Weekend** team were aiming to build on the success of the last 3 years and we were planning a bigger and better event for this year, but the Covid 19 crisis has caused us to reconsider what we do.

The weekend will still be going ahead on the 19th & 20th September and some of the venues will be open, with social distancing measures, including Petworth House, Coultershaw and Burton Mill. However, we are also planning an exciting **'Digital Experience'** of places of interest around the town that will bring to life many of the stories about Petworth and will be a taster of what is to come in 2021.



We have created a new webpage where you can learn more and find the links to the 'Digital Experience'. <https://Petworthcommunity.org/petworth-heritage-weekend>

Regular updates will also be on our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PetworthHeritageWeekend/>

We are going to create a **Digital Scrapbook of Petworth Memories** and we would love to hear reminiscences of your life in and around Petworth in past years.

Please send your memories to: petworthvisionevents@gmail.com

THINKING ABOUT YOUR GARDEN IN SEPTEMBER

Colour is so important in the garden. Spring is all about yellow and white and the pink blossom; June and July the range broadens, but can be mixed pastels, whereas August and September are about the hot colours of red, orange and yellow. Go a bit mad and try clashing colours together, diffused by green or silver. The great gardener, Christopher Lloyd did this at Great Dixter.

Here are some tips for September:

1. Collect seeds from summer flowering perennials. Hollyhocks, Digitalis and Poppies, for example, produce green seed heads that can be collected now and sown for flowers next year. Remove the seed heads you require and store them in a dry place ready for sowing indoors in February/March next year.
2. Cut back some perennials. Varieties such as Aster, Chrysanthemums, Delphiniums, Lupins and Phlox can look good well into the autumn, but sometimes they die back and need to be cut down 2-3 inches above ground level. Other perennials, such as Echinacea, Acanthus, Eryngium and Honesty produce attractive seed heads, so leave them.
3. Start planting spring flowering bulbs such as Daffodil, Crocus, Hyacinth, Snow-drop. Tulips can be left until October or November.
4. Start collecting flowers for drying, for example Amaranthus, Sedum, Stasis, Achillea. Hang them upside down in a dry place, well ventilated, for two to three weeks.
5. Start clearing all annuals as they go over and add them to your compost heap.
6. Sweet peas can be sown in cold frames or greenhouses to over-winter. The young plants can then be planted out in March/April for early blooms.

Enjoy the late summer sunshine and all the atmosphere the garden creates. It is a time to be joyous and reflect.

Robert Hill - Snook

JUST FOR FUN

Riddles

1. From my shoulders and upward, I was higher than any of the people?

Who am I?

2. I was mocked because I was bald?

Who am I?

3. I am the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.

Who am I?

4. I was Rebekah's nurse who died and was buried under the oak below Bethel.

What is my name?

5. When Israel took Canaan, I am where they set up the tabernacle.

What place am I?

1. Saul (1 Samuel 9:2)	2. Elisha (2 Kings 2:22,23)	3. Hell (Luke 23:2)	4. Deborah (Genesis 35:8)	5. Shiloh (Joshua 18:1)
ANSWERS				

IF I WERE..... complete the blanks.

If I were a **Flower** I would be abecause it isand

If I were an **Animal** I would be abecause it isand

If I were a **Food** I would be abecause it isand

If I were a **Book** I would bebecause it is.....and.....

If I were a **Song** I would bebecause it isand.....

And finally....

If you could change places with a Biblical character, whom would you choose, and why?

.....

ANAGRAM FOR SEPTEMBER

This month I am going to keep to the theme from last month - a flower. There are two birth flowers for September, Aster and Morning Glory, but we will use just one.

REMEMBER:

No plurals (very easy in this one to slip in a plural)

All words to have 3 or more letters, but only use each letter once

No capitalised words

MORNING GLORY

It took an ONGOING (7) GIN (3) to find my longest word of 8 letters - so I think I did not do very well. Good luck to you!



UGANDAN APPEAL

Chris Gibbon, ex-deputy Head from Steyning Primary School, is attempting to raise money to transport a pallet of desperately needed books to Uganda and is asking for our help.

The books which have been generously donated by a recently closed local school, will cost £700 to ship out to Uganda. They include much needed reading schemes, which will support the set-up of a new school for children with disabilities of which Chris Gibbon will be Headteacher.

The school will be based in Fort Portal, in rural Uganda and is part of an established charity called Kyaninga Child Development Centre (www.kyaningacdc.org) KCDC is a not-for-profit organization to provide much needed high quality, specialised and affordable assessment, treatment, education and support to children with disabilities, and their families and carers, to enable them to lead more independent lives. Books are the cornerstone of learning and these books will provide an essential learning tool for the children.

If we do not have help from people like you, these marginalised and overlooked children may never have the opportunity to realise their potential. We can't change the world but sometimes it's the small things that make a difference. We will absolutely make sure that the donation you give goes directly to this fantastic cause. Please donate to my JustGiving Crowdfunding Page - your help will make this dream become a reality: A huge THANK YOU for your support.



South Downs Skyscrapers

If you're feeling boxed-in by buildings and overwhelmed by architecture, I've found the perfect escape route. Head up onto the South Downs and let the developed world be stripped away with every step. Yet here, in this ancient landscape, towering above the thyme and trefoils in the turf, you'll find some of the most impressive buildings in Sussex.



Ant hills are mini miracles of design and construction, the visible tip of the ant's underground empire. Soil is mined and carried, grain by grain, to the surface to construct this metropolis of mounds some of which can be centuries old. Every ant hill represents a separate colony of Yellow Meadow Ants – respected as the finest architects amongst Britain's 42 ant species.

Ant hills are high-rise heat-traps built to harvest the sun's warmth. This soil solarium houses a series of chambers; the colony's nursery. Here, worker ants tenderly tend to eggs, pupae and larvae – moving them around within the ant hill to keep them always on the sunny side.

With a strong division of labour, each colony is a 'superorganism' made of thousands of hard-working individuals serving a common cause – their colony and queen. But life is far from peaceful. Every ant hill is a miniature kingdom at war with its neighbouring ant hills. Epic battles are fought daily on these downs, and every summer squadrons of winged ants take to the skies in an attempt to establish new colonies. It's a perilous mission – certain death awaits them if they land in occupied territory.



Down under the ant hill, other ants work on the aphid farm. Root-feeding aphids are herded and 'milked' for their honeydew – a hi-energy drink which helps fuel the colony. Ants also obtain a similar sugary syrup from the caterpillars of Chalk Hill Blue butterflies. When these caterpillars are ready to pupate they are carried underground and adopted by the ant colony. Upon emergence, the subterranean homesick blue butterflies scramble back to the surface and escape to the summer skies.

Ant hills don't just benefit ants; their angles and aspects create a unique micro-habitat on chalk downland. Their sun-baked slopes are great for basking butterflies, grasshoppers and lizards and their soft, sifted soil is loved by mosses, grasses and flowers. This softness is also their vulnerability. Every ant lives in fear of the great winged terror from the sky – the green woodpecker. Its brutal bill and sticky harpoon tongue can cause carnage in a colony. Winged monsters, kingdoms at war – it's a veritable Game of Thrones out there on the South Downs in September.

AT THE HOME OF MARY AND MARTHA

Luke 10:38 - 42

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said.

⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,

⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one.^[a] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

PICTURE ENTITLED, MARY AND MARTHA

BY JEROME JONES JR

For over 40 years Jerome W. Jones, Jr. has been using his original paintings to teach "THE ART OF LIFE THROUGH THE LOVE OF ART" to inspire the young and old to use their gifts to uplift others.

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