

Lest we forget...



Steyning and Ashurst

Church Magazine



NOVEMBER 2020

Steyning Parish Church,

1 Vicarage Lane, Steyning BN44 3YL

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During this time of pandemic we are continuing with the following services:

- Eucharist with organ music on Sundays at 9:30am
- Midweek Eucharist every Wednesday at 11:30am

We can accommodate a congregation of at least 60 in our nave on Sundays. Please aim to arrive at least ten minutes before the service begins to assist with stewarding, to be guaranteed seat and to hear the notices.

Please see page 4 for details of our Remembrance Service which will have to be ticketed.

We are continuing to provide worship resources on our website (and by post for congregation members without email) 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:

Penfold Hall, Church Street,

Steyning BN44 3YB

Tel: 813276

office@steyningparishchurch.org

www.steyningparishchurch.org

THE OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED BUT IS STAFFED REMOTELY

Post is being picked up and the telephone diverted to the

Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

CAROLINE WRITES



Dear Friends,

Remembrance. A time of remembering. As the days get shorter the year seems first to turn faster – harvest, autumn colours, Halloween. Then to slow down as the clocks fall back and the days so often get greyer as well as shorter (no-fun, no-sun, no-ember). And as we come to Remembrance this year there seems to be an added poignancy to this season.

Because the remembrance that so many of us are going through isn't just a remembering of wars won 75 and 100 years ago, or even conflicts more recent. It's a remembrance for a time that all of a sudden seems long gone. A time 'BC' (before Covid -19).

Remembering often also means acknowledging grief. Certainly, in the early years after a national conflict, for many the season has been one of heightened grief. And I think in many ways this year we are grieving for the life we remember that seems so recent but also so long ago. A time when we didn't have to think about who we could meet or hug, how close we should stand to people. A time when we could sing in church!

It's right to acknowledge that grief, yes. But not to get stuck in it, because one of the defining characteristics of Christians is that we are a people of hope. Paul's letters talk so often about the hope we have in Christ. How that hope enables us to endure. And also how that hope enables us to look forward with a confidence that the here and now is not the end, and is not all there is. Like when he writes first to the Thessalonian church: "*We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labour prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ*"

So how can we make that hope real for ourselves and those we love and care for over the coming weeks? One way I have found really helpful is to take a lead from Paul who starts with thankfulness, and in my daily prayer time to make a conscious effort to be thankful for something. I remember last winter when I was walking the dog through dripping, miserable woods with the rain continuing to fall, and little light in the sky, there, in the depths of the wood I came across a small beech tree. It was a beautiful shape and its browned leaves were still hanging on. I could have seen it as sad and a sign of the end of things. But instead I gave thanks for it standing there constantly, despite the weather, for whoever came past to see its inherent beauty. The beauty of the life within that would burst into something new in just a few months' time in the spring. Whenever I pass that little tree now it is a sign of hope to me.



And by the time we get to the end of the month we will be hitting 'Stir Up Sunday', which is on 22 November this year. Christmas will be coming into view. It might be something of a different Christmas – but it will still be a reminder of the hope that comes into the world. Jesus, who walks with us as Christians along every step of the way and who is in the end the unchanging and ever constant basis of that hope

Caroline Armitage, Lay Reader and Ordinand

FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to this edition of the Church magazine in which the main theme is Remembrance Sunday. There will be many who will be unable to attend church for that occasion as perhaps they might have done in the past, so there are special thoughts and prayers that we hope will help you to commemorate this time. 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 through a magazine. Your stories are important.

Send to: steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



*This year's Remembrance Sunday service at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's will be simpler than usual. We will not be able to sing, and **entrance will be by ticket only** because of our restricted seating capacity. The service in church will begin at **10:45am** and people should aim to be seated by 10:30am. More details about how to apply for tickets will be available through the Sunday bulletin as well as on the church website.*

There will also be the usual open air Act of Remembrance organised by the Royal British Legion in the War Memorial Gardens on Steyning Playing Field (by the tennis courts), with prayers led by the Vicar. This is unticketed, and people should gather from around 10:45am on Wednesday, 11 November.

The service at Ashurst St James will begin at the usual time of 10:50am.

MAGAZINE DEADLINE for

DECEMBER 2020

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER

Email address: steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

PARISH REGISTERS



We welcome Felicity Jane and Matthew William Keohane into God's Church. They were christened at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's on Sunday, 4 October.

PAUSE AND PRAY

Ever-living God we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God our refuge and our strength, a very present help in trouble, we seek your comfort and your blessing for those who mourn the death of those they love, for all whose lives are torn apart by violence, for all the suffering people of the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

O God of truth and justice, we hold before you the men and women who have died on active service.

As we honour their courage and cherish their memory, may we put our faith in your future; for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Our small prayer for healing group have been coming together in spirit every Wednesday evening during the last difficult months. In September we were able to meet in the Cuthman Chapel and pray together in a short service. It was a very special time to be together again.

Although nothing can be certain in the current circumstances, we have planned to get together monthly on the second Monday morning of each month in the Penfold Hall. As this article is prepared only six of us may meet together, but when things ease sometime in the future, there will be room for more people.

Do join us in prayer at home if you can, simply offering up your concerns and loved ones to our Lord.

FUNERAL

Monday 22 September Celia Mary Whittome Worthing Crematorium

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

Our love and prayers for Celia, and her family during this time of Covid -19.

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 NOVEMBER

1 November All Saints Day Lord, lead us to our heavenly home by single steps of self-restraint and deeds of righteousness; through the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 November All Souls Day The Lord shall reign for ever. Lord of all, our breath and being come from you, yet our earthly end is dust; as you loose the bound and feed the hungry, so bring us in your mercy through the grave and gate of death to the feast of eternal life, where you reign for evermore.

8 November Remembrance Sunday

11 November Remembrance Day Lord God, help us this day to remember the sacrifice of those caught up in war, and the generations of men, women and children who have died in the cause of liberty and peace. Help us to remember those who still bear the physical and mental scars and disabilities of their service

22 November Christ the King The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. Open our ears, glorious Lord Christ, to hear the music of your voice above the chaos of this world; open our eyes to see the vision of your glory, for you are our King, now and for ever.

26 November Thanksgiving Day O Lord, with humble hearts we pray, thy blessing this Thanksgiving Day, and ask that, at this table place, where grateful folk say words of grace, Thou will come to share the yield Thy bounty gave to farm and field. We pray thy love will bless, O Lord, each hearth, each home, each festive board; and that Thy peace will come to stay where candles glow, Thanksgiving Day.

29 November First Sunday in Advent

30 November Andrew the Apostle All powerful and ever present God, you looked in love on Andrew, the ordinary fisherman, and called him to be a disciple and friend of Jesus, your Son. We honour Andrew for the witness of his life and martyrdom and are pleased to call him our patron saint.

THIRD SUNDAY PRODUCTIONS

Along with many other people, I have been overawed by the way Third Sunday Productions have evolved, and wish to thank **everyone** involved for their hard work, their valuable time, their inspirations and professionalism. In September in particular, it meant so much to see so many friends and fellow parishioners obviously enjoying Sarah's vineyard and Nigel's directorship.

I was inspired to contact my Godson, and sent him the details of where to watch it on line. He has been involved in the film industry for some years now, and he was suitably impressed, as well as taking on board the message behind the story.

so well done and thank you to all.

I wonder who I can share the next production with? It seems a good way to spread the message!

Mary Travers



HARVEST FESTIVAL GIFTS

Thank you for all your thoughtful and generous Harvest food and money donations. These will fill our food bank for the coming winter months. As you can imagine, FSW are supporting many more families this year. In our Deanery we have such a sensitive and dedicated Family Support Practitioner in Becca Carter. She is doing an incredible job keeping our families fed with nourishing food and spiritual help, so everything you do supports her. Christmas will soon be upon us. In the December magazine I will let you know about gifts for the children and adults.

Thank you for your kindness.

Sue and Wendy

KEEPING THE CHURCH OPEN

A big thank you to all who are volunteering sanitising our beautiful Church enabling us to feel safe when entering and to the stewards on Sunday morning so we can attend the 9.30 service safely. This is all done in a very willing and caring way. It is very much appreciated.

Sent with my love and prayers.

Denise

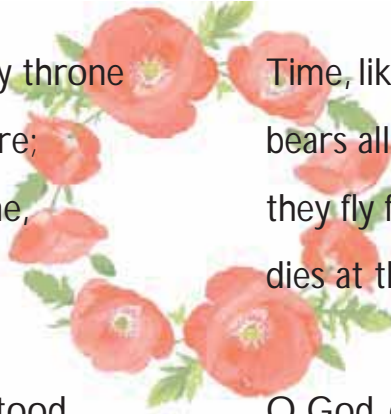
*Thank
you
so
much!*

O GOD OUR HELP IN AGES PAST

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home;

A thousand ages in thy sight
are like an evening gone;
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Beneath the shadow of thy throne
thy saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is thine arm alone,
and our defence is sure.



Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the opening day.

Before the hills in order stood,
or earth received her frame,
from everlasting thou art God,
to endless years the same.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
be thou our guard while troubles last,
and our eternal home

Isaac Watts

PRAYER OF HOPE

O God of truth and justice,
We hold before you those whose memory we cherish, and
those whose names we will never know.

Help us to lift our eyes above the torment of this broken
world, and grant us the grace to pray for those who wish
to do harm.

As we honour the past, may we put our faith in your future;
for you are the source of life and hope, now and for ever.



LEST WE FORGET

It is only just over a year ago that Steyning Parish Church held its Flower Festival - what a lot has happened in this year! Do you remember the wonderful displays done by the many groups in Steyning? I can recall many, but especially at this time of year I have in mind the most moving display of poppies falling all around the War Memorial. These poppies remained as other displays came down, and they were an important part of the Church's Remembrance Sunday last year. The church is proud of the War Memorial. Poppies say remember, do not forget, and in particular do not forget that all wars are dirty and destructive. Through the ages people have fought over the same things - greed, land, fear, honour - and all make the same mistakes.

I cannot remember the exact title of the 2018 Reith Lectures, but Margaret MacMillan presented a series on how conflict has shaped us. I remember that one of her points was that British women made tremendous strides forward both politically and economically as a result of both World Wars. There are many today who have not known wars, except on the screen, but it nevertheless is a part of our human experience, and sadly the Great War has not been the war to end all wars.

All Souls and Remembrance Sunday come close on each others' heels, and both enable us to take time to remember, and not forget those who have died, to give thanks for loved ones and to bring to mind our own loss. These times can bring us mixed emotions - pride, especially for our armed forces; courage shown by all who have died in military or civilian life; it is also a time for many where there is pain, possibly anger and emptiness, and maybe questions. The text on the back page, John 15 v 9 -17, tells of God's great love for us, his friends. The God I worship is a God who suffers with us and that, at the heart of our Christian faith, He died for us. The crucifixion of Jesus allows us to know that God identifies with our pain and suffering, because visibly God suffered at this time. Jesus shouted out "My God, My God, Why have you forsaken me?" or "Why Me?"

We are daily faced with goodness and love in the world, and confronted by evil too; there are amazing saints around us, and sinners too, and many a mixture of both. The great love we find in others finds its source in God.

*God is Love: and he enfoldeth
all the world in one embrace;
with unfailing grasp he holdeth
every child of every race.
And when human hearts are breaking
under sorrow's iron rod,
then they find that selfsame aching
deep within the heart of God.*

From Hymn, God is Love

Chris Fitton



JOSEPHINE ANN THORNTON 17 SEPT 1941- 25 AUG 2020

It was a huge shock to all Mum's friends and family when she was diagnosed with terminal cancer in June of this year. She had always lived life to the full and was such an active member of the local community. A very special woman who touched the lives of many. A much loved wife and partner, mother, grandmother, godmother and friend.

Mum took great comfort from her faith, bravely deciding on palliative care, and began preparing for her death from the moment she found out she was unwell. This included writing down some of the memories of her early life.

Mum began life in a mansion block flat in Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, North London. Her earliest memories were of a barrage balloon tied to the taxi rank at the end of her road and of her father coming home from the war, a complete stranger, and wondering why her mother was so excited! A bomb dropped on the block of flats her grandmother lived in

across the road, killing the guest, and Mum remembered her grandmother arriving at their door in the middle of the night all dusty. Mum would have been not quite three at the time. The family moved to Woodford, when her father, a policeman, was promoted to Superintendent and Mum was in her early teens. After secretarial college she did a little fashion modelling before working for the editor

of Harpers Bazaar magazine allowing her to indulge her love of fashion. Mum met and married our father and retired from Harpers while expecting Robert. They lived in a flat in South Kensington, but fell in love with Sussex after spending many weekends there with friends. Just after William was born the family moved to Pulborough, where I was born.

Mum became involved in lots of charitable endeavours. She regularly hosted disadvantaged children from Belfast, from both catholic and



protestant backgrounds, run by an organisation called 'Dovetail'. She ran a playgroup for preschool children from one of the rooms in our house; she sang at Arundel Cathedral with the Arun Choral Society; delivered 'Meals-on-Wheels', and in the early 80s became very involved with the Worthing Archaeological Society, for whom she latterly became honorary life-president. She loved to travel, particularly to places of archaeological interest and enjoyed trips as far afield as Israel, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, China, Ecuador and the Galapagos, as well as Peru, where I was lucky enough to meet with her while she was on holiday and I was on the return leg of a round-the-world-trip! She also sponsored several children in developing countries.

Living in Sussex fuelled Mum's passion for wild-life and the countryside. In 1989 she moved to Steyning and set up home at Lyminster Lodge, with David. Here she kept and reared bantams, had multiple litters of 'Staffies' and only last winter did a 'Hedgehog prescriber's course', learning to give fluids to dehydrated animals. She became involved locally with the WEA, attended lectures, and film nights, helped out with coffees at church, the 'Steyning Good Neighbours' scheme, hosted language students and did a spot of stewarding at Steyning Museum, while supporting the arts and theatre, opera at Glyndbourne, and the RHS.

We were very lucky to be able to spend lots of time with Mum in her final days and weeks, and she remained at home until being transferred to St Barnabas Hospice only the day before she passed. She was surrounded by family and friends in her final weeks and Rob, Will and I were at her bedside at the end. She was a beautiful woman, devoted to her children and grandchildren, and is sorely missed.

Susie Kelsall

ALL SOULS' DAY

On this special holy day in the Church's calendar we pray for those who have died. All Saints Day and All Souls Day follow one another and both are times that are dedicated to remembering the dead. Historically the practice of setting aside a time especially to pray for those who have died can be traced as far back as 1048 when St Odilio introduced it to the Abbey at Cluny.

In our churches here in Steyning and Ashurst people have had the opportunity to write the names of those who have died in a special book, and the names have been read out at the altar.

Merciful Father,

*On this All Souls' Day, we are called to remember
those who have died,
Particularly those who have died in the past year,
And pray for their joyful reunion with you,
their loving creator.*

*As your son taught us to call the stranger
neighbour, our fallen are many—*

*Names we will never know,
Voices we have never heard,
In lands we may never visit,
Yet brothers and sisters all.*

Grant eternal rest O Lord.

GRIEF



Melancolie by Albert György

This is what Grief feels like..

Don't judge it

Don't rush it

Don't dismiss it

Don't suppress it

There is no Rulebook for Grief.

It comes in waves.

And I pray for the ones

who feel as though they're drowning.

Jesus was quite clear in his teachings that he had conquered death and it should no longer hold power. Jesus gave real hope with his promise of a kingdom which was yet to come. Jesus spoke in pictures about a time when there would be feasting and laughter. The time to come would be different, the hungry would be filled and those who had been downtrodden would be freed.

This gives us hope as we entrust to God those who have died.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

MARGARET, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND (c1045-1093)

REFORMER OF THE CHURCH



Image of Saint Margaret
in a window in Edinburgh

Margaret was born about 1045 in exile in the Kingdom of Hungary. She was the sister of Edgar, the Anglo-Saxon claimant to the English throne following the death of Harold II. In 1057, she and her family returned to England but, ten years later following the Norman invasion, the family was again facing exile being the last members of the Anglo Saxon royal family.

King Malcolm III of Scotland gave the refugee family his protection. Margaret, having grown up in a very religious environment in the Hungarian court, was anxious to embrace the religious life as a nun but, in deference to the wishes of her mother, she married King Malcolm. It was a happy marriage and they had six sons and two daughters. Her influence over the King was considerable. Rough in character, he came, through love of her, to value what she valued. He saw (as Margaret's biographer wrote) that Christ truly dwelt in her heart, what she rejected he rejected and what she loved he, for love of her, loved too. Although he could not read, he embellished with gold or silver bindings the books she used at prayer and one such book survives at the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

Her Hungarian upbringing, influenced by the Church of Rome, made Margaret anxious to reform the Christian faith in Scotland to conform to the teachings of the Roman Church. Among her reforms were the proper observance of Lent and Easter and regulating the prohibited degrees of marriage. Her private life was given up to prayer and practices of piety, caring for prisoners in the Royal dungeons, washing the feet of beggars and tending to the sores of lepers. She founded schools, hospitals and orphanages.

Malcolm and Margaret restored the ruined abbey at Iona and founded several churches including Dunfermline Abbey built in 1072 as a setting for Margaret's greatest treasure, a relic of the true cross. She brought Benedictine monks from England to staff the Abbey.

One son became King David I of Scotland who continued to implement his mother's ideals. Margaret died in 1093 four days after learning of the deaths of her husband and one of her sons in a battle against William Rufus. She was buried in Dunfermline Abbey. Her feast day is 16th November. In 1673 she was named as Patron of Scotland.

TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE? GOOD NEWS FOR AFRICA



Every now and then, something makes you really sit up and take notice. It is fair to say that if an offer looks too good to be true, it usually is. But this time, I can assure you that there is a genuine deal which can really make a difference. A major United Nations agency has chosen to work with Christian Aid because of its grass-roots community network. Christian Aid has worked out an agreement with the World Food Programme (WFP), so that any money earmarked for this scheme will be multiplied **up 68 times (yes, that is sixty-eight)**. So donations totalling £1500 would increase to over £100,000 – even £10 becomes £680. I used to work for Christian Aid as Head of Policy and Campaigns and can provide more information if required via e-mail:

rjlmwilliamson@gmail.com

I am more excited by this programme than any since the successful debt relief campaign of the Jubilee 2000 era.

What is it for? Armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Nigeria has left huge numbers of people in need of life-saving food aid as they are displaced from their homes and can no longer feed themselves. Five million children in the DRC suffer from chronic food insecurity. An African colleague of mine who works with the UN partnering women in the DRC and neighbouring countries has told me of the huge needs of the region. People face violence, danger, food shortage and now COVID. It really puts our problems in perspective.

Why should we give? The book of James in the New Testament gives the best answer I know. "If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." James 2:15-17.

What will the project do? It aims to improve food security for 300,000 people in the DRC and Nigeria, initially on immediate food aid, but also working for sustainable long-term food solutions.

This is a time when our national politics has turned inwards focussing on us, not on generous help for the poorest in the world. As Christians, our vision should be greater – to help wherever there is real need. What could be more important than a chance to help some of the most vulnerable children, women and men in the world at this time? When will we get a better opportunity than multiplying our gifts by 68 times? You can do something – and the World Food Programme will help us do much, much more. We have personally given what we can and now I am inviting friends and congregation members also to take the chance.

How do we do it? Give online at <http://caid.org.uk/wfp> or send a cheque or charity cheque to Christian Aid (FAO Jack Merrington), 35 Lower Marsh, Waterloo, London SE1 7RL, now or before the end of November, with a cover note saying that the donation is for the World Food Programme partnership.

This prayer was sent with the information I received from Christian Aid HQ – I commend the appeal to your generosity and prayers.

Loving God.

Come now and make us into a global neighbour hood

looking out for each other through struggle and crisis

reaching out to strangers who become sisters and brothers,

shape us into a caring community

strengthening each other through every challenge

standing together until justice comes for all.

In your name we pray. Amen

Roger Williamson

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

Having now had a wonderful warm spring and summer we all are wondering what we can do as the evenings are darker and longer, and we need to hunker down by the fire in the evenings. It's time to get stuck into a new challenge.

My name is Tamzin and I've been spreading the word about a great charity called **Knit A Square (KAS)**. They ask people to knit or crochet 8" squares and send them to southern Africa where they are made into blankets for orphaned or vulnerable children and abandoned babies. There are more than 40 million children in this region alone who live in poverty, and the ability to provide them with a little comfort and warmth should not be underestimated.



Over 1.5 million squares have been sent to the charity since its foundation in 2008 leading to the distribution of more than 84,000 blankets, but there are millions more children and babies in dire need.

Instructions: full instructions at <https://knit-a-square.com/> or here in brief -

Using a double knit (DK) yarn, crochet (approx. 4.5mm hook) or knit (approx. 4.5 mm needles) 8" squares. You can use any stitch or design you like but remember that the blankets need to be sturdy and warm. When you finish leave a 20" tail (used for sewing the squares together).

When finished: squares can be given to Chris Fitton 816946.

Yarn – if you are in need of cheap but good quality yarn I'd recommend Stylecraft Special DK. Huge range of beautiful colours are available online for home delivery at www.lovecrafts.com, or if you would just like to have a go ask Chris for some wool.

When we have enough squares Tamzin will send them all off for us.



ARMISTICE DAY

Each year at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, our country observes a two minute silence. Armistice Day on 11 November marks the end of the First World War and is a day to remember and honour those who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. This silence is held in our church on Remembrance Sunday because we wish to honour and remember those who fought not only in World Wars, but also the British Servicemen and women killed or injured since 1945. The war which was meant to end all wars has not done so. When evil forces are at work in the world there are times when war can be justifiable as a last resort to stop such atrocities. So we remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country in the pursuit of freedom, justice and peace. We also remember those we love and from whom we are parted.

EDUCATION

State schools had their 150th anniversary in August this year. Church school had started long before the Education Act of 1870. Did you go to a church school or a state school? What do you remember about your school days? I remember chalk boards; the radio broadcasts of Music and Movement; Listen with Mother (I so loved this sitting right up by the radio to listen to a story being read to me).

Having read the recent interesting articles from our church primary and secondary schools in earlier magazines I realized that our schools were one of the few community facilities that remained open without a break during the early months of this pandemic.

We have heard of the extraordinary work of Headteachers and staff and how they adapted and cared for the needs of all their children and families; the authors who made their stories visible and so accessible to children unable to be in school; staff who adapted the curriculum and learnt how to zoom and make videos etc. so all children were able to learn wherever they were, even though everyone knew how much they were missing their peers.

All staff in schools today are making daily risk assessments and doing an amazing job at keeping everyone safe as well as using a new vocabulary about schools. Bubbles were something quite different when I was at school!

Exams have continued to be a focus of concern, as do all the university students - they face uncertainties and worries about their work and futures. Life is so different from what they had planned or hoped for.

The Church of England has a large part to play in the education of our children across the country and all engaged in education need our prayers more than ever.

"My Christian faith has helped me cope and keep going when others have had to stop through stress or burn out." *Mr Wilson, Headteacher.*

GIFTS THROUGH THE SENSES

I will thank him for the pleasures given me through my senses, for the glory of the thunder, for the mystery of music, the singing of birds and the laughter of children. I will thank him for the pleasures of seeing, for the delights through colour, for the awe of the sunset, the beauty of flowers, the smile of friendship and the look of love; for the changing beauty of the clouds, for the wild roses in the hedges, for the form and beauty of birds, for the leaves on the trees in spring and autumn, for the whiteness of the leafless trees through the winter, teaching us that death is sleep and not destruction, for the sweetness of flowers and the scent of hay.

Truly, oh Lord, the earth is full of thy riches! And yet, how much more will I thank and praise God for the strength of my body enabling me to work, for the refreshment of sleep, for my daily bread, for the days of painless health, for the gift of my mind and the gift of my conscience, for his loving guidance of my mind ever since it first began to think, and of my heart ever since it began to love.

Edward King (Sermons and Addresses) in 'Windows on the Psalms' by Ronald W Dale

Sent in by Pat Edwards

Editor: Thank you for the various writings and articles that have been sent in. I do enjoy reading each one and including them for all to read. - **keep sending them in.**

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 with whom you have been unable to meet, 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



ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING



INTO THE LIGHT

By Dan Woolard

Dan works from Salisbury, and on Facebook this picture was shown with this poem for Remembrance Sunday.

ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING

One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide
they walk toward the light milord
they walk towards the sun
they smoke and laugh and smile together
no foes to outrun
these men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved
they march as friends and comrades
but they do not march for war
step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps
the meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave
the emerald grass untrampled
a reward for what they gave
they dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them
forever in those poppy fields
there walks one thousand men.

*Joshua Dyer 2019 (aged 14)
Lest we forget*

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old;

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.

We will remember them.

Robert Laurence Binyon (1869-1943), 'For the Fallen'

SOUNDS OF WONDER

I am writing this on 30 September, the 274th day of 2020. I have just listened to the 274th different piece of classical music this year, following the playlist described by Clemency Burton-Hill in her book *Year of Wonder*. I have been listening to classical music since the early 1950s but many composers and pieces were new to me.

On New Year's Day the choice was the *Sanctus* from Bach's Mass in B Minor, something that many of us know well. On 26 January there was a piano piece by Elena Kats-Chernin an Australian born in 1957. On 3 February the choice was an excerpt from the opera *La liberation di Ruggiero* by Francesca Caccini who was born in 1587. On 4 February

Fantasia Nègre by Florence Price a black composer from Little Rock, Arkansas, born in 1887. On 12 March, *Miserere*, a choral piece by Zelenka born 1679.



Everything in the book is on YouTube. Search "World of Wonder January" and you will go straight to the playlist for the month. I like YouTube because I can watch the performers or sometimes follow a score. For those who like to listen through headphones from their phone, I believe the playlists are on Spotify. Entering the title of the piece in the YouTube search gives several performances to choose from. I have discovered many new performers and compared their interpretations to historic recordings. The book is not essential but adds interest with biographical paragraphs about the composer and what was happening when the piece was written.

Sometimes the COVID shutdown has felt like a desert island.

Here are eight of my choices for you to try.

1. *Falconieri: Chaconne in G major*
2. *Scriabin: Étude in C sharp minor op2 No 1 (performed by Horowitz)*
3. *Bach: Concerto for two violins in D minor BWV 1043 (Menuhin and Oistrakh)*
4. *Handel: Eternal Source of Light Divine (Alison Balsom)*
5. *Schubert String Quintet in C major D 956, movement 2 adagio*
6. *Arturo Márquez: Danzón no. 2 (L'Orchestre de Paris)*
7. *Pearsall: Lay a garland (Voces8)*
8. *Ribers no. 8: (Danish String Quartet)*



John Edwards

WHY WEAR A POPPY



On 11 November 1918 the First World War came to an end. Much of the war had been fought in dug-out trenches across Belgium and France, and it is thought that about 9 million soldiers lost their lives, and about 27 million were wounded - many of them permanently disabled. The fighting stopped everywhere six hours after the Armistice was signed in a railway carriage in Compiègne, northern France. Two years later (and 100 years ago this year) the body of an unknown British soldier from one of the battlefields was laid in a coffin and brought over to England, and was taken in procession to Westminster Abbey, past thousands of people lining the streets. During the service, the coffin was laid to rest with some soil from France in the floor of the central aisle of Westminster Abbey. This tomb commemorates all British casualties, especially those who have no known grave, and all who suffered during that war and since. Lying there amongst the tombs of kings and queens and many famous people, this "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" bears the inscription, "*Beneath this stone rests the body of a British warrior, unknown by name or rank, brought from France to be among the most illustrious of the land!*" During that service, the hymn "Lead Kindly Light" was sung.

During the First World War, the soldiers in their dug-outs could see red poppies growing in the fields of Flanders, an area that covers parts of Belgium, the Netherlands and France. Each year, the Royal British Legion sells artificial red poppies and small crosses to raise money for injured soldiers, sailors and airmen who have served their country up to the present day. This year it is also possible to download a picture of the RBL poppy from their site and then you can place that in your window to show your support.

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place, and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

In Flanders Fields
By: Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, MD
(1872-1918, Canadian Army)
Published by Punch 8 December 1915

RECIPE FOR NOVEMBER

TARRAGON CHICKEN THIGHS

Ingredients:

- whole chicken thighs 6
- oil
- shallots 2, peeled and quartered or 1 small onion
- new potatoes 300g, cleaned and halved (1 large tin of new potatoes drained, works just as well)
- whipping cream 150ml (I use double cream)
- chicken stock 200ml
- Dijon mustard 2 tbsp
- tarragon small bunch, chopped (dried works too but it can thicken your sauce so you may need to add water, I use around a table spoon but use for your taste)



Method:

1. Fry the chicken thighs in a deep frying pan or casserole with a lid in a little oil to brown the skin.
2. Turn over, add the shallots and brown them for a minute.
3. Add the potatoes, cream and stock and bring to a simmer. Season.
4. Add the mustard and half of the tarragon,
5. Simmer with a lid on for 40 minutes, or until the potatoes are tender and the chicken cooked, turning them over if needed.
6. Scatter with the rest of tarragon

it's too easy to forget god's benefits
and blessings in christ.



STEYNING MUSEUM....OPEN AGAIN!

Steyning Museum opened its doors on Wednesday 16th September. We are trialling new extended opening hours **10am to 4pm each Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday with half-day opening 10am to 1pm on Friday.** The Museum is following required COVID-19 protocols and visitors will need to wear a face mask when they come along. There is a one-way system in operation to help with social distancing.

Please come along to look at our latest displays and audio-visual developments.

We certainly have not been idle during lockdown. Soon after the beginning of lockdown in March, we started collecting a local record about the Coronavirus Pandemic. We have been collecting people's thoughts and feelings about this (hopefully) once in a lifetime experience. We also have memorabilia, such as leaflets, newspaper items, poems and photos (including those wonderful rainbows which sprung up everywhere). The plan is for this to become a research tool for the future showing what life was like in our area during these strange times. Now is your chance to come along and add your thoughts too. In the entrance of Steyning Museum we have a display showing extracts from people's thoughts and a 'memory cloud' on which you are invited to add a small note offering your ideas too.



Also to celebrate the re-opening, a new exhibition featuring toy theatres through the ages will be on display. The collection is owned by Andrew Woodfield who is Curator of Exhibitions.

During his childhood, Andrew and three of his cousins ran a Family Theatre which was the springboard of his lifelong passion for toy theatres and he has been adding to his collection ever since.



During lockdown, Andrew prepared the exhibition which tells the story of Juvenile Drama (the name that the Victorians gave to the hobby) from the Regency period to the present day. The oldest toy theatre on display dates back to the 1880's and the exhibition also includes some posters and prints which are even older than that.

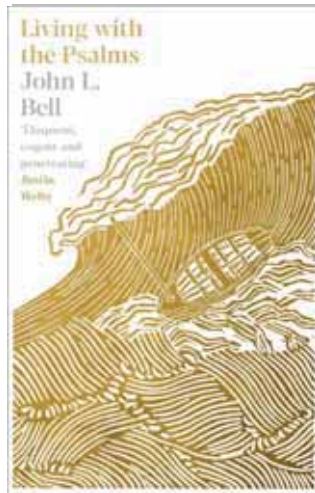
The exhibition is on display until mid-January when it will be replaced by an exhibition celebrating Victory in World War 2.

For more information please check our website: www.steyningmuseum.org.uk

Prayer is a plant, the seed of which is sown in the heart of every Christian.

If it is well cultivated and nourished it will produce fruit, but if it is neglected, it will wither and die.





LIVING WITH THE PSALMS BY JOHN BELL

I bought this book just a few weeks ago because I am daily growing to love the Psalms, and I wanted to know what John Bell would write.

I have not been disappointed. Each short chapter takes an issue and this then invites us to reflect further. He takes much loved psalms, and also those we might shy away from. For example, John Bell takes Psalm 23 and beautifully relates it to Jesus and Holy Week as a five part meditation.

Such an imaginative way to use the Psalms.

Bell takes Psalm 88 and relates gently how this Psalm can give us words for pain and mental anguish, as described by someone in an audience with him saying "You wouldn't ask those kinds of questions unless you knew someone was listening".

For John Bell the Psalms deepen both empathy and understanding and are enhanced when heard as poetry or set to music. Bell helps us, through his own closeness to God, to bring us closer to Him too.

BIBLE VERSES ABOUT TREES

Psalm 1:3

He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams
of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.

Job 14:7

For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down,
that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will
not cease.

THE STEYNING SOCIETY

Talks at the Steyning Centre are currently suspended due to social distancing measures relating to Covid 19.

The talks are instead available on You Tube each month and a link is available from our website: www.steyningsociety.org.uk/talks

"The History of Goodwood House"
by Hilly Sloan, until 15th November 2020

"Mad cap ideas - Quality Inventions"
by Douglas J Eaton, from 16th November 2020



Douglas is an experienced presenter, entertainer and published author. He has performed at The Cavern Club alongside the Beatles, and is a cruise lecturer.

JUST FOR FUN IN NOVEMBER

Bible Quiz

1. What is the last word in the Old Testament?
2. By which previous name was Paul of Tarsus known?
3. Whose wife was turned into a pillar of salt when she looked back?
4. In the bible, who is said to have lived on a diet of locusts and wild honey?
5. How many years did Noah live after the flood?
6. There are only three angels named in the bible, Michael and Lucifer are two, name the other as found in the Protestant Bible?
7. Who made the first translation of the Bible into English in 1382?
8. Name the longest book of the Bible with 150 chapters?
9. In which city was Jesus born?
10. Who took the place of Judas in the twelve disciples?
11. Who was the older brother of Moses?
12. What kind of wood was Noah's ark built from?

WHAT NUMBER DO YOU THINK?

1. The full Bible has been translated into languages. It has been partially translated into 2,883 languages
2. The shortest verse in the Bible is John, which states, "Jesus wept."
3. The first authorized Bible printed in English is the Great Bible of King Henry VIII of England declared that it should be read aloud during the church services in the Church of England
4. The Bible takes place across Continents.
5. There are a total of named women in the Bible.

1. 532 Languages 2. John 11:35 3. 1539 4. 3 continents 5. 188 named women

ANSWERS NUMBERS

1. Curse 2. Saul 3. Lot's 4. John the Baptist 5. 350 years
6. Gabriel 7. John Wycliffe 8. Psalms 9. Bethlehem 10. Mathias
11. Aaron 12. Gopher wood

ANSWERS BIBLE QUIZ

ANAGRAM FOR NOVEMBER



This month I am going to keep to the theme that is found throughout the magazine.

How many words can you make from **LEST WE FORGET**

REMEMBER:

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

No capitalised words

No plurals

I thought this would be easy for longer words, but the longest one I can find is just 7 letters. Hope you can do better.

WHAT PEOPLE WRITE.....

“What makes me angry is the general loss of reason, logical argument and civility in public discourse. Snide dismissiveness seems to have replaced reasoned rebuttal, especially on social media”.

Prof. Robert Holmstedt

Amazon lists 176 different skills that enable its Alexa programme to read out prayers for every faith and taste.....The Alexa skill that got the most stories in the newspapers was one that reads out services from The Prayer Book, or as Alexa knows it, The Cambridge Prayer Book.

“With God all things are possible. God has helped me completely heal from my past wounds. I founded a charity, Fight for the Dignity of African Women and Children. I empower, educate and encourage African women, children and men in different countries around the world. I don't want them to go through what I and others went through in the name of culture and tradition. I must prevent it at all cost.”

Brigitte Gambou

Stubbornness and rejection do not have the final word. Even in the midst of violent human rejection the love of God finds a way to triumph.

Canon Angus Ritchie

...and I live in a hole

If your lawn is full of nectar-rich flowers for butterflies and bees, with a patch of long grass for grasshoppers and hedgehogs, then Mother Nature will thank you. But if you're one of those particular people who demands that their lawn is a perfectly manicured carpet, slathered in chemicals and shamelessly shaved each summer Sunday, then Mother Nature will not be happy and she'll send in her best hit man. So while we remember, remember Guy Fawkes in November, I'm here to celebrate Britain's other infamous tunnelling terrorist – the mole.

It's hard to bond with the mole. Like 99.9% of us, I've never seen one and probably never will. They're almost a supernatural entity – the Bigfoot of the back garden. Their invisibility means my mental image of the mole has been painted by *The Wind in the Willows* and children's cartoons instead of real-life encounters. I'm always surprised when I see an actual photo of one and it's not wearing glasses.

Moles aren't blind. Admittedly, they'll be struggling by the second line of an eye test but there isn't much call for perfect eyesight when you spend all your life in total darkness. Instead, their pink nose is covered with 5,000 sensory organs which register touch and vibration, allowing the mole to 'see' with its snout; a super-sense that makes them efficient hunters. Their tunnel network spreads out like an underground web and when a wiggling worm drops into it the mole's super-senses tingle, sending them scrambling through their pitch-black passageways. Worms are captured, cleaned, beheaded and stored, still wriggling, in a larder for future consumption.

The mole's front paws are like a pair of giant pink snow-shovels and come equipped with an extra thumb; a characteristic they share with the giant panda. These wide shovel-hands can move an incredible 540 times their own weight of soil in a day. That's like me moving 55.46 tonnes of mud (and before you go scrambling for your calculators, yes, I could do with losing a few pounds).



The molehills that erupt on our lawns are spoil heaps created by the construction work below. OK –they're unsightly but gardeners should be welcoming moles. When potted, molehill soil makes an excellent growing medium for seeds and seedlings, so if you're blessed with molehills - grab a trowel. Once the tunnels are completed the molehills will stop appearing and, in the long run, mole burrowing bestows untold benefits to soil aeration and quality.

But for me, it's a pleasure just knowing that such an amazing animal is living, unseen, a few inches below my feet. Some people will still complain but I guess some folk will always make a mountain out of a, well, y'know.

Lest we forget...



John Chapter 15 Verses 9-17

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends.

You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.

You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

NRSV

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