



# Church Magazine

FREE

Steyning and Ashurst

OCTOBER 2021

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

**Vicar:** The Revd Mark Heather LLB BA 879877  
[vicarofsteyning@gmail.com](mailto:vicarofsteyning@gmail.com) or [rectorofashurst@gmail.com](mailto:rectorofashurst@gmail.com)

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

**CHURCH SERVICES**

**St Andrew's & St Cuthman's**

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist

6:00pm Evening Service

**St James's**

10:30am Second Sunday Family Service

Fourth Sunday 1662 Holy Communion Service

**Wednesdays at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's**

11:30am Midweek Eucharist

**SEASON OF CREATION**

**3 October** 9:30am Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist at Steyning Parish Church

**10 October** 10:30am Harvest Thanksgiving Family Service at St James, Ashurst

*Fr Mark, Vicar of Steyning and Rector of Ashurst*

**Parish Office Address:**

Penfold Hall, Church Street,

Steyning BN44 3YB

Tel: 813276

[office@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:office@steyningparishchurch.org)

[www.steyningparishchurch.org](http://www.steyningparishchurch.org)

**THE OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED BUT IS STAFFED REMOTELY**

Post is being picked up and the telephone diverted to the  
Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.



## PASTORAL LETTER

Dear Friends,

It says a lot about us that the recent announcement (from the departing head of the Food and Drink Federation) that the days of fully stacked shelves in supermarkets are gone and may not be coming back comes as a surprise. It's a sign of the abundance, and relative prosperity to which most in our society have become accustomed. Our reaction might also be a marker of our ignorance and negligence towards those who produce our food and work to get it to us. It's no surprise that it's hard to find HGV drivers when you hear that so many of them spend so much time away from home that they don't spend any real time with their children.



When I was a curate my training incumbent did the talk at Harvest Festival which focused on all the steps necessary, not only to produce a bottle of wine, but also to get it to the check-out in the supermarket. He asked the congregation about every step in the production process, from growing and tending the vine onwards, and every time someone gave an answer that person was asked to step forward and form a line. Before long about half the congregation were standing at the front of church. I've since done the same but asking about a loaf of bread. Of course, it's not just the obvious things like wheat and flour. What about the water – collected in reservoirs, treated and filtered, and carried along networks of pipes to the factory?

It's a wonderful, if unromantic glimpse of how easy it is to take for granted what we have come to call convenience shopping.

Last month many of you will have attended the Climate Justice service at St Andrew's and St Cuthman's when we thought about the impact our sometimes greedy and careless lifestyles can have not only on other people but also on the future of the planet. Our Harvest Festivals are a chance to stop and thank God for the simple things we need to live and to put the luxuries in perspective. See the wise thoughts on this subject on pages 6 and 7 of this magazine.

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

*(See page 9 for more about the hymn and the author)*

*fr Mark*

## FROM THE EDITOR:

The picture on the front cover this month is a photograph taken by Vanessa Knowles on one of her walks up on The Downs just above Steyning. It is lovely and perfect for our Harvest/October edition. Thank you Vanessa.

There are church articles, community articles and subjects for your prayers inside the pages this month. I hope you enjoy dipping in and reading.

Do you feel inspired to write or send in a picture or two? Here is a reminder of where to send your contributions:

[steyningchurchmag@gmail.com](mailto:steyningchurchmag@gmail.com)

*Thank you .*

## SUNDAY BULLETIN

The weekly Sunday bulletin sent from the Parish Office gives all the information about services, news and local support etc, and how to access these.

There is also the list of those needing our prayers.

If you would like to receive the bulletin please contact:

[office@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:office@steyningparishchurch.org)

or ring 01903 813276

To add any new prayer requests please contact:

[prayers@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:prayers@steyningparishchurch.org)

or ring 01903 813276

## HARVEST GIVING

Please see page 11 for the details of FSW donated food items at both Harvest Festivals.

We will also be arranging a collection through Christian Aid for the World Food Programme Harvest Appeal for displaced people in Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and Bangladesh.

## PARISH REGISTERS

### FUNERALS

Margaret ('Peggy') Ash

7 Sept 2021

Died 5 Aug 2021

William George Rankin

13 Sept 2021

Died 23 Aug 2021

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon them.  
Our love and prayers for all their families during this time.

### WEDDINGS



28 August

Sean Mark George Hallett & Phillipa Louise Oxley

10 September

Philip Andrew Stevens & Michelle Bacon  
(at St James's Ashurst)

12 September

Benjamin Colin Arnett & Sophie Louise Bright

18 September

Jamie Matthew Carter & Laura Olivia Dunsford

## PAUSE AND PRAY

Generous God, save us from the meanness that calculates its interest and hoards its earthly gain; as we have freely received, so may we freely give; in the grace of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Gracious God, we praise you for your faithfulness and pray that every nation may find your blessing in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

### Pray for Afghanistan

Pray for wisdom in how to survive

Pray for the women living in fear

Pray for all children in Afghanistan

Pray for health and wellbeing and medicines

Pray for food to be available and affordable

Pray for those who are displaced

Lord Jesus Christ  
I would come to you  
live my life for you  
Son of God  
All your commands I know are true  
Your many gifts will make me new  
Into my life your power breaks through  
Living Lord.

Songwriter: Patrick Appleford

## PRAYER DIARY FOR OCTOBER

**Sunday 3 October**                      **The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Sunday 10 October**                      **The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Sunday 17 October**                      **The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

**Monday 18 October**                      **Luke the Evangelist**

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; 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.

**Sunday 24 October**                      **The Last Sunday after Trinity/Bible Sunday**

**Thursday 28 October**                      **Simon and Jude Apostles**

Almighty God, who built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone: so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Sunday 31 October**                      **All Saints' Sunday**

## HARVEST

As we celebrate Harvest in 2021 it will be just weeks until world leaders meet in Glasgow for the UN Climate Summit (COP26). The summit was delayed due to Covid -19, but action on climate change is still as urgent as ever



The Churches at Ashurst and Steyning will celebrate harvest on the first two Sundays in October and I am sure we have all seen the busy tractors gathering in the abundant corn or barley in our neighbouring fields, and the front picture was taken by Vanessa as she walked on The Downs just above Steyning. How we think about our harvest will differ according to our needs, our essential foods, and the context in which we exist.

On the back page are four individual verses from The Bible showing how important Harvest was from the earliest writings through to the final book of Revelation, and which indeed carries on into our lives today. At the time of Christ it is estimated that around 90% of a person's time would have been spent producing and preparing food. Since the very early days the Christian Church has historically played a key role in reinforcing the connection between people and the land, and today it is important to take time to do that again.

Why take time for reflection, for thanksgiving and for praise?

I think there are two main reasons; firstly because praising and thanking God for what He gives us should be a matter of habit for all of us, so we should then consider carefully what we give; and secondly because this nation owes a huge debt of gratitude to the farmers and fishermen. Far too easily we can become emotionally and practically detached from the source of our food. Last year it came into very clear focus that we cannot and must not take national food security for granted. Climate change and population growth mean that it is more difficult to produce enough grain for the world's needs. The global markets will sell to the highest bidder regardless of need.

To celebrate harvest this month while we are still in the middle of a global pandemic is to have an opportunity to reflect, to think again on how we sow and how we reap, about what we give and what we take.

Since we last celebrated harvest over 35 million people in the world have contracted Covid-19 and over 1 million have died, and as I write Tokyo hospitals are unable to cope with the increase of cases as a result of the Olympics. Because it is a disease that has affected the most powerful people in the world as well as the least powerful, I have heard it said that the virus has been a great leveller. But that isn't really true, is it?

For 20 months I and many others have relied completely on help from delivery drivers, hospital porters, bin collectors, care workers and many more of our lowest paid and kindest people. Now we are noticing that things are more expensive or harder to come by, but can all afford daily living costs? How many more families and single people need the food banks? The impact across the world among the poorest communities, especially the Black Asian and Minority Ethnic people is still Covid-serious and famine and drought are with them daily.

The global events of August have torn at our heart strings - from the news coming from Afghanistan to the earthquake in Haiti, to the UN report on Climate Change. But there are also so many stories of hope and thanksgiving as we see and hear of communities and individuals springing into action to help and support others. The Songs of Praise in Steyning Parish Church in September was able to celebrate and thank local people who have given to others over the last 20 months. (See page 12)

Many of us cannot now physically "spring into action", but we can create a circle of thanks and prayer around our food producers and ask for God's blessing on their work and daily lives. We can reflect on our corporate relationship to food and the land and the sea as it is all a God given source for our well-being.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

*Chris Fitton*

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow	Give Glory To The Father
Praise Him All Creatures Here Below	Give Glory To The Son
Praise Him Above You Heavenly Host	Give Glory To The Spirit
Praise Father Son And Holy Ghost	While Endless Ages Run

# SUMMARY OF PCC MEETING

**Held by videoconference on Wednesday 14 July 2021**

The July PCC was told of a diocesan proposal to reorganise the archdeaconries of Chichester and Horsham and to place Storrington Deanery under the care of the Archdeacon of Chichester rather than the Archdeacon of Horsham.

The Vicar and members of our pandemic Pastoral Response Group updated the PCC on public worship following the lifting of mandatory restrictions. Consideration was given to congregational singing; face coverings; BCP service; the choir; hymn books & sheets; seating; BCP hygiene; and the use of the choir stalls. The risk assessments were to be updated.

A General Synod paper had been circulated setting out important themes that were to shape the church over the next 10 or 20 years. This set out two key points:

1) The parochial system would need to evolve to embrace other systems for church growth and to become a mixed-ecology system.

2) The national church needs to be sure that it has a financially stable system. In our diocese each parish had been asked to review, revise and update their Mission Action Plan. Our PCC is to focus on this at its Away Day on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Consideration was given to the possible implications of an increased parish share; more generous giving is to be encouraged to avoid reducing clergy numbers or the merging of parishes into united benefices.

A meeting had been held on 10 June and attended by representatives from the PCC, Horsham District Council, Greening Steyning and Steyning 4 Trees which had looked at how to manage the whole churchyard better and to increase biodiversity, but also to consider the needs of people using the churchyard as well as the wider community who need to feel the churchyard is for them and not just for the church. There was a need to be mindful of providing safe access to commonly visited graves.

PCC members had been among those who responded to the questionnaire sent to the congregation about the 'The Time is Now' declaration, urging the UK government to take more action to combat the global climate emergency. Whilst feedback had been diverse on the whole the PCC were supportive of signing the declaration which can be found at:

<https://thetimeisnow.uk>

A report of the September PCC meeting will appear in the November magazine.

*Steve McGrath*  
*PCC Secetary*



## WE PLOUGH THE FIELDS AND SCATTER

We plough the fields and scatter  
The good seed on the land,  
But it is fed and watered  
By God's almighty hand:  
He sends the snow in winter,  
The warmth to swell the grain,  
The breezes, and the sunshine,  
And soft, refreshing rain.

Refrain:

*All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
For all his love.*

He only is the maker  
Of all things near and far;  
He paints the wayside flower,  
He lights the evening star;

The winds and waves obey him,  
By him the birds are fed;  
Much more to us, his children,  
He gives our daily bread.

We thank thee then, O Father,  
For all things bright and good,  
The seedtime and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food;  
Accept the gifts we offer  
For all thy love imparts,  
And what thou most desirest—  
Our humble, thankful hearts.

Refrain:

*All good gifts around us  
Are sent from heav'n above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
For all his love.*

One of our most enduringly popular harvest hymns - We Plough the Fields and Scatter - began its journey as a German poem published in 1782. Matthias Claudius (1740-1815) never had any intention of writing a hymn. Claudius was a German journalist and philosopher who was merely writing a poem about a group of peasants gathering for a banquet and singing a "Peasants' Song". The seventeen-stanza poem, originally entitled "Paul Erdmann's Fest" depicts friends coming over to Paul Erdmann's house and enjoying themselves. It praises both Paul Erdmann for his hospitality and God as the ultimate source of the feast.

The original tune was not the familiar one of today, that came later (1800), and was attributed to J.A.P. Schulz in 1818 with the title (unsurprisingly) "Wir Pflügen", with minor alterations to the refrain.

More recently, Brian Wren has written a version that more accurately reflects modern farming methods. This is the refrain:

*All creation's wonders are born from Love alone.  
Lift heart and voice,  
in God rejoice,  
and bring the harvest home.*

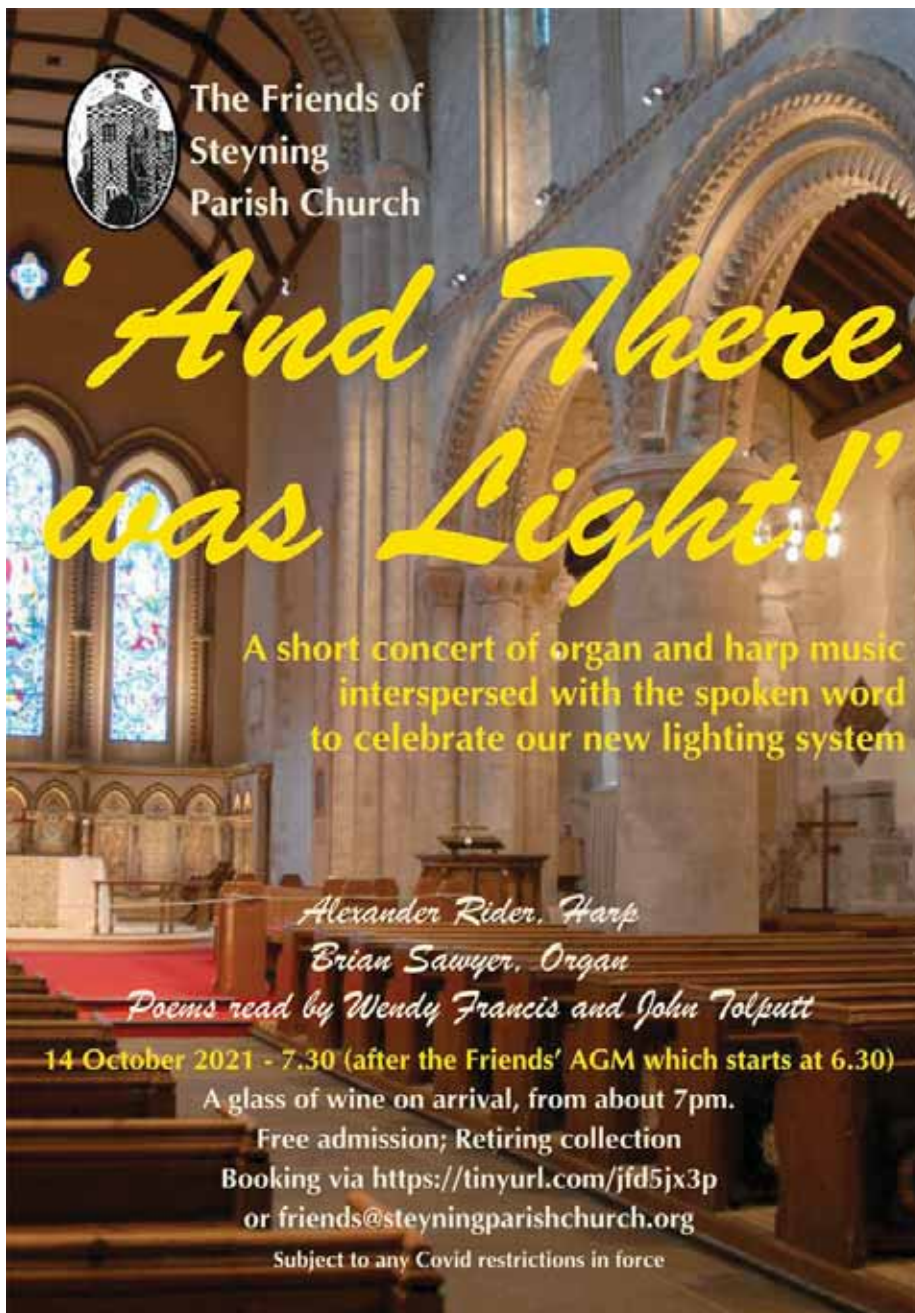
## WHY HOLD HARVEST THANKSGIVING?


Harvest Thanksgiving is a more modern addition to the church calendar. Its origins are usually traced to the adaptation in 1843 of Lammas Day by the Revd R. S. Hawker, a parish priest in Cornwall. He chose the first Sunday in October as a Christian response to coincide with the traditional but largely secular 'harvest home' celebration, but there is some evidence to suggest that a thanksgiving for the harvest was already a relatively widespread practice.

An annual church celebration of the harvest certainly established itself rapidly with great popularity and was first recognized officially in the Church of England in 1862.

*The Church of England*

## FRIENDS OF STEYNING PARISH CHURCH



 The Friends of  
Steyning  
Parish Church

**'And There  
was Light!'**

A short concert of organ and harp music  
interspersed with the spoken word  
to celebrate our new lighting system

*Alexander Rider, Harp*  
*Brian Sawyer, Organ*  
*Poems read by Wendy Francis and John Tolputt*

**14 October 2021 - 7.30 (after the Friends' AGM which starts at 6.30)**  
A glass of wine on arrival, from about 7pm.  
Free admission; Retiring collection  
Booking via <https://tinyurl.com/jfd5jx3p>  
or [friends@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:friends@steyningparishchurch.org)  
Subject to any Covid restrictions in force

This is the poster you will see around town for this beautiful concert.

**14 October**

**7:30pm**

Free admission with retiring collection

Booking via Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/and-there-was-light-tickets-169301867443>

Or

[friends@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:friends@steyningparishchurch.org)

### HARVEST FESTIVAL GIFTS FOR FSW

**St Andrew's and St Cuthman's Church, Steyning**

**3 October 9.30 Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist Service**

**St James Church, Ashurst**

**10 October 10.30 Harvest Thanksgiving Family Service**

During the months of lock down your thoughtful and generous food and money donations have enabled us to feed and care for our families. At Harvest time FSW fill their coffers with your gifts which sustain the families throughout the winter months.

**This Harvest these are the ways you can help:**

- ⇒ Bring your harvest gifts to Church.
- ⇒ Donate money to FSW via their website :  
[www.familysupportwork.org](http://www.familysupportwork.org) then go to Donate
- ⇒ Donate by cheque to:  
Family Support Work, Garton House, 22 Stanford Avenue, Brighton BN1 6AA
- ⇒ Donate by cheque made out to Steyning Parish Church PCC  
(with Family Support Work on the reverse)

**Thank you** and thank you for the Donations you put in the Church basket week by week.

*Sue and Wendy*

## THE STEYNING SOCIETY

**Friday 15th October at 7:30pm in the Steyning Centre**



### SAFE HAVENS BY THE SEA

**An illustrated talk by Chris Hare**

Chris is a distinguished historian of Sussex who tells the fascinating story of a philanthropic project in Lancing. He has written many books on Worthing and our local area and has led many guided walks.

Free to members and £2 guests, including refreshments.  
All are very welcome to attend.

# STEYNING FESTIVAL SONGS OF PRAISE

The Church was full for the Ecumenical Festival Songs of Praise and there were many people who would have liked to be there but unable for various reasons. Here is the order of the service so you can join in thanking all those who quietly and continually help others.

**Organ Music before the service Organist:** Brian Sawyer

Sortie in Eb - *Louis Lefebure-Wely*

Power of Life - *Mons Leidvin Takle*

**Opening Hymn**

Praise, my soul, the King of Heaven;

**Reflection** Revd Ian Suttie, Steyning Methodist Church

**Interview with Derek Took**, Steyning Good Neighbours Scheme

**Hymn**

Lord of all Hopefulness, Lord of all joy,

**Interview with Simon Knowles**, a Community First Responder

**Hymn**

How deep the Father's love for us,

**Interview with Dr Jacqueline Holdaway**, from Steyning Medical Practice

**Hymn**

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,

**Interview with Liz Burt**, from The Hub in Upper Beeding

**Hymn**

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the holy One, is here;

**Interview with Tim Lloyd**, from Steyning Parish Council

**Hymn**

Love Divine, all loves excelling,

**Interview with Sue Gearing**, former Chair of Governors, Steyning Grammar School

**Hymn**

I, the Lord of sea and sky,

**Prayers, the Blessing of the Tree of Messages and final Blessing:** Fr Mark Heather

**Final Hymn**

Guide me, O thou great Redeemer,

**Retiring Collection** in aid of Shoreham Foodbank.





## SAINT OF THE MONTH

### MARGARET CLITHEROW (1556-1586)



One of the Forty Martyrs  
of England and Wales

Margaret Clitherow, born in 1556, was the daughter of Thomas Middleton, a respected wax-chandler and Sheriff of York. In 1571 she married John Clitherow, a wealthy butcher and a Chamberlain of the City. They had three children and lived in the Shambles.

In 1574 she became a Roman Catholic although her husband remained a member of the newly established Church of England. John had a brother who was a Roman Catholic priest and so he was supportive of his wife and respected her views. John paid his wife's fines when she refused to attend the parish church. However, in 1577 Margaret was imprisoned for her continued refusal to worship according to the rites of the Established Church and then, when she continued to absent herself, she was

imprisoned in York Castle for two more terms. Her third child was born in prison.

In 1584 it was made a capital offence to harbour Roman Catholic priests at a time of tension with Spain. Margaret saw it as her duty to construct two hidden chambers where she secreted priests and Mass was celebrated. Her eldest son, Henry, went to the Roman Catholic Seminary in Reims to train for the priesthood. John Clitherow was summoned by the York authorities to explain why his son had gone abroad and their home was searched and the priest holes were discovered.

Margaret was arrested and appeared before the York Assizes for the crime of harbouring and supporting Roman Catholic priests. She refused to plead saying "Having made no offence, I need no trial". Because she would not plead there could be no trial and thereby her three children could not be made to testify or be subject to torture. The standard ploy to force a person to enter a plea was to crush them and, although pregnant with her fourth child, that was her sentence.

Margaret was stripped and laid across a sharp rock and then the door of her house was put on top of her and loaded with rocks and stones until the sharp rock beneath her broke her back. She died within fifteen minutes but her body was left for six hours so that the citizens of York could witness the method of her death and thereby be deterred from supporting Roman Catholicism.

Margaret is one of the Forty English Martyrs canonised in 1970 and, in the English calendar, her Feast is kept on 25 October.

# STEYNING CHURCH SWIFTS - UPDATE



It has been a very encouraging year for the Swifts at the Steyning Church. Our fantastic group of watchers comprising Andrew Armitage, John Woodward, Colin Holter and Peter Chase have established with reasonable certainty that six pairs of Swifts nested at the Church this year. Hopefully all the young fledged successfully, however they say that this is difficult to monitor as they leave the nest and don't return.

During the incubation period groups of non-breeding adult Swifts were regularly seen screaming around the Church and other local sites prospecting for vacant nest holes for next year. This was usually four to six, but on one occasion twenty were seen. This bodes well for next year if they all manage to survive the journey to Central Africa and back.

We are very keen to make sure that the Swifts have a safe breeding site and we are grateful to Peter and his team for the information they have provided showing the location of the nest holes.

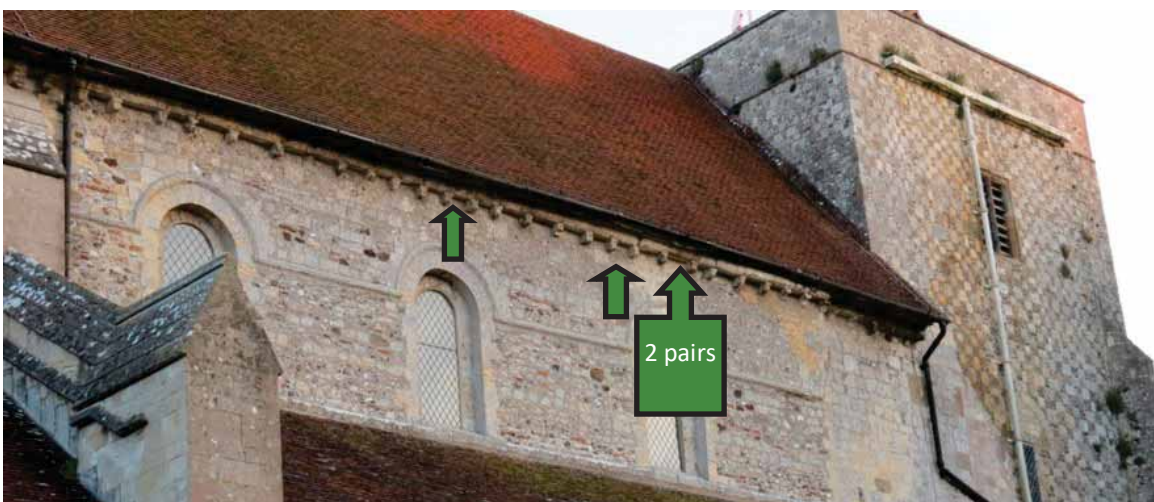
They have also identified two other nest sites, where they established that four more pairs were nesting.

It is sad to think they have now gone and will be preparing for their migration and it will be a long wait until next April/May when hopefully we will see and hear them again.

## STEYNING CHURCH – NEST HOLES - 2021

During the 2021 breeding season Swifts were confirmed as nesting in holes in both the North and South facing walls as indicated by the arrows on the following photographs.

### North Facing Walls



Continued on next page





South facing wall



It is important that no work on the exterior of the Church, and that no scaffolding is in place during the period starting 15<sup>th</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> August.

This will ensure that the Swifts can breed undisturbed with no risk of colliding with scaffolding etc.



## TIP OF THE MONTH



Try to repair rather than replace things and if you can't do that why not ask The Repair Cafe to help? They operate once a month on Saturdays at

**Beeding and Bramber Village Hall** and have a huge range of expertise including bikes, electrical goods, computer software, tool sharpening etc.

**23 October 2-4pm**

Tea and Coffee and an opportunity to chat about all things green

## WEDNESDAY COFFEE IN CHURCH COTTAGE



Every Wednesday morning we will be offering tea, coffee and conversation from **10.30am until 11.45am.**

The company will be familiar but the location is new. We will be serving up real coffee and big smiles **in the cottage** adjacent to the Vicarage garden. Do come and join us.

## COP 26



**UN CLIMATE  
CHANGE  
CONFERENCE  
UK 2021**  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

I hope that by the time you read this article the conference entitled COP26 will be in the news on a regular basis.

What is COP 26 and what does COP stand for?

COP stands for Conference of the Parties, and will be attended by countries that signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) - a treaty agreed in 1994.

The 2021 meeting will be the 26th meeting, which is why it's called COP26.

The UK government declared 2020 a "Year of Climate Action" and that was the year in which this conference should have been held in the UK. As well as the targets for changing to electric cars, the government has pledged to reduce the UK's carbon emissions to "net zero" - which means releasing virtually no carbon - by 2050. This means emissions from areas like transport, farming and industry will have to be zero or offset by sucking CO2 out of the atmosphere..

Christian Aid says, "The UK government must use its role as host of the COP26 Summit to:

- Increase financial support to the world's poorest countries and push for their debts to be cancelled
- Invest in a green recovery that leaves no-one behind
- Stop the expansion of fossil fuels

### **Engage with your MP ahead of COP26 to let them know we care**

It's more important than ever that we turn up the pressure on MPs – showing them the depth and breadth of support for climate justice in the UK.

Our brothers and sisters living in the most marginalised communities in the world – who have done the least to cause the climate crisis – are paying the heaviest price. Crops are ruined, homes destroyed, and lives lost as extreme weather takes its toll.

COP26 is a decade-defining moment and an opportunity for real, immediate, and lasting change."



## TANKER TALES

### *JOURNEYING*

In the summer we spent a long weekend glamping on Dartmoor. One morning I had the urge to go off by myself and to walk up Pew Tor with nothing but my prayer book for company. There is a part of me that has always been yearning to go off by myself for a time of solitude, away from noise and distraction. That may appear selfish in the light of family responsibilities, and it does require a sensitive awareness of when is convenient. There are times when I just wish to be left alone with my thoughts as summarised well by Esther de Waal – *“Unless I have time to withdraw, unless I can preserve and protect the innermost part of my own life, I too become so drained and exhausted that I am not fully present to those who come”*. (i) It is a pattern of living that Jesus Christ demonstrated who would often seek silence to pray. (ii)

As I walked that morning I was contemplating the way in which Christian life is a journey. Often I have heard Christians referred to as ‘pilgrim people’ and within scripture early Christians were referred to as ‘followers of the Way’. (iii) What does it mean to be pilgrim people and what is the Way? We may find a clue in the words of St Peter who refers to Christians as strangers in the world (iv) and interestingly the Greek word for stranger or exile is ‘parokia’, from which we get our word parish. A reminder that a Christian community is a group of Christians exiled in a place journeying to heaven. (v)

Pope Gregory I used the image of a navigator to describe the role of a priest. *“The navigator is a good image for the priest. It recognises that Christian existence is never stationary. We are always moving in one direction. The only question is by which current we will allow ourselves to be propelled. It is an eschatological image that underlines that we are to be always on the move, looking ahead to the future that God has prepared for us and ready to set all the instruments by which we orientate ourselves, all the antennae we use to determine our direction, on the new way of living to which we are called by Christ”*. (vi)

As I walked up Pew Tor the rhythm of my feet merged with my breathing and I was able to catch a glimpse of the divine that is within each one of us and surrounding us at any given moment within the splendour of His created world. I was able to take in the mystery of a spring bubbling out of the hillside and winding its way down the road; to marvel the finest detail contained within the wings of a butterfly; and the wonder of watching a pigeon swooping back to its nest. By withdrawing from the demands of life I was able to see things in a new light and to notice the work of God in His garden and how we all have a vested interest in maintaining this for future generations. As I sat among the cragged rocks at the peak I was able to take in the panoramic vista of Dartmoor surrounding me on all sides, it was simply breath-taking!

(i) A Life Giving Way, Esther de Waal p.156

(ii) Luke 5:16

(iii) Acts 9:2

(iv) 1 Peter 1:1,17

(v) Becoming a Spiritual Leader, Patrick Whitworth p.208-209

(vi) Being a Priest Today, Christopher Cocksworth & Rosaline Brown p.38

Every day I am journeying with work and it feels like sometimes I am rushing around from one place to the next but in a sense not getting anywhere. Similarly with my discernment journey, no longer on hold, and I have restarted the formal process of exploring a sense of priestly calling. It is a journey that started in 2010 when I had my first calling but in actual fact the journey most likely started long before when I was a child. In some ways I have come full circle, no longer am I rebelling against Catholic teaching but rather have come to embrace it once more but with elements of more Protestant teaching that I have picked up on my pilgrimage through life. Looking back I am grateful for a Catholic childhood and education.

What does it mean for me as a confirmed Anglican now? Challenges lie ahead for me as I seek to be recognised as a leader within the church, particularly a church which has long suffered from an identity crisis. With new initiatives planned for 'mixed-ecology' and church planting there is a risk of committing huge folly by abandoning the historic formularies upon which the CofE was founded and ignoring the life and example of holy men and women that have gone before us.

I have been on a journey which has led me to this point just as the church has been on a journey as it desperately tries to adapt in order to communicate the Gospel to a new generation in a post-Christian world, one in which Christianity is viewed as being irrelevant.

Perhaps if the church spent more time in solitude on the mountaintop it may find the divine within itself as it journeys back down. We can only journey onwards through the pilgrimage of life if we are aligned with an inner peace that provides stability. For God is not something to be found in the past, nor something to find in the future, but rather is someone to be found now, at this very moment, if only we seek Him.

*"The truth that the pilgrimage taught me is that God is on the journey all the time, not just at the end of it. The point of the journey was to learn this truth rather than to reach a particular destination, however holy, and there is no end to the exploration!" (vii)*



## SOUND BITES FOR OCTOBER

"We have learnt things about ourselves and the importance of faith in dark times. We have been shown evidence of shocking disparity and ingrained processes of damage within our society. We have been confronted by the fragility of our life and our common home, the earth, how easily it was taken for granted, and the beauty it holds as God's first gift to us."

*Bishop Martin*

*Faith in Sussex*

The supply of goods and fuels is one of the fundamental pillars in the operation of our global economy. But how do these products get transported from manufacturers to their targeted destination for distribution?

A freighter or cargo ship is often the answer to this question. In total, more than 90% of the world's goods and fuels are transported around the world, thanks to seafarers. Without them the world economy would grind to a halt. This would place businesses and millions of jobs around the world in jeopardy.

This is why seafarers are so important in helping to maintain our current way of life and considered by many to be an under-appreciated key worker.

*Mission to Seafarers*

Hopes of ending leprosy in Mozambique have been boosted by a £4.4 million response to the Leprosy Mission's Unconditional Appeal. Described by the Charity's chief executive as "an outpouring of generosity", this is the most successful appeal in its 147 year history.

Half the funds came from the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office as part of its pound - for - pound UK Aid Match scheme.

The appeal sought to raise awareness of the disease, change attitudes and improve access to treatment. An antibiotic to cure leprosy has been available since the 1980s, but the disease persists through stigma, fear and lack of healthcare.

*The Leprosy Mission*

Christianity is a dogmatic faith. Its ethics are based not on the inherent goodness of the human person, but on the grace of God.

The early Christians received the Creed at baptism as a gift and a blessing, because it liberated them not only from sin, but from fate.

*Angela Tilby in The Church Times*

## AUGUST DRIVEWAY SALE

We made £410 for local Children's Charities in our recent Drive Sale of Plants and Produce.

A big thank you to everyone who came and supported us.

*Jill and Roger Brown*

*Thank  
You!*

## CHURCH FLOWERS

2 and 9 October      Susan Harris

16 and 23 October      Christine Aubrey

We are most grateful to the Flower Team - and, of course, a reminder that if you would like to join our team we would be delighted for you to join in the fun!

*Carol McKechnie*



## THE ARTS SOCIETY IN OCTOBER.....

**LA SERENISSIMA - THE GOLDEN ERA OF MUSIC IN VENICE**  
by Patrick Craig,      October 11th 2021      10:00am - 12:00.

Patrick will explore the rich musical traditions of Venice. Claudio Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Lotti, Cavalli and Albinoni. We will hear music from Antonio Vivaldi, the other towering figure of Venetian music, who created music both for the opera stage and the female musicians of the Ospedale della Pietà.

**The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, BN44 3XZ**

Free to members, £10 donation for visitors.

[steyning@theartssociety.org](mailto:steyning@theartssociety.org)

[www.theartssocietysteyning.org.uk](http://www.theartssocietysteyning.org.uk)



## CHRISTIAN AID WORK

In Malawi, the combination of gender inequality, energy poverty, financial exclusion and the impact of climate change makes life especially challenging for rural women. Women face constraints including lack of assets, limited income and restricted access to finance and credit.

To tackle these issues, the Breaking the Barriers programme (Feb 2018 - March 2022) is supporting women to establish their own sustainable energy businesses and promote gender equality.



As of May 2021, the project has directly supported 875 women, organised into 38 cooperatives, (known as Women-Led Sustainable Energy Enterprises (WLSEEs)), including Makande, Tsapa and Mvivi women's groups. The women are supported with business management and training, as well as infrastructure support such as processing units, solar-powered dryers and juice-making machines. They also have a unique opportunity to access reduced interest bank loans to help get their businesses off the ground, and receive support in challenging gender imbalances in their homes and wider communities.

Since the start of the project in 2018, the women's average monthly income has increased by 10%, which will continue to grow as the groups increase their production and sales. And 37% of women indicate that their confidence has increased to engage with the local authorities to advocate for their demands.

As well as transforming the lives of the 875 women cooperative members, the new sustainable energy businesses have so far created 188 jobs for the wider community. For example, local men and women have been recruited for full-time positions such as guards and accounting assistants and are paid a monthly salary, while other community members are provided with part-time contract work such as the installation and maintenance of machinery.

At its close, the project expects to reach 1,189,113 people in the three districts with access to jobs and markets where they can sell their products and increase their income.

**Women are joining forces to change their lives and overcome poverty.**  
*"Two people are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up the other".*

*Ecclesiastes, 4:9-10.*

## PACT AUTUMN LECTURE

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October 7.30pm**  
**at St Mary's Church, Petworth, GU28 0AD.**

Petworth Area Churches Together (PACT) have invited  
**James Mildred**, Chief Communications Officer of **CARE**, to speak.

His subject is

### **For Parliament and the Church.**

**CARE** stands for **C**hristian **A**ction **R**esearch & **E**ducation. *CARE has done fantastic work over 40 years. It has been at the coal face helping Parliament make ethical and Christian decisions about family, justice and life issues.*

Excellent canapés and wine afterwards.

Free entry - All welcome.

Loos at church. Ample free parking 6 minutes walk away.

Further details from Gerald 01798 342151 or [Geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com](mailto:Geraldgreshamcooke@gmail.com)

## STEYNING ART GROUP

### **ANNUAL EXHIBITION**

**2 OCTOBER 2021**

**STEYNING CENTRE**

**9.30 - 4.30**

We look forward to showing you our varied and inspirational artwork  
Oils, Watercolours, Abstract and Mixed Media.

Greetings cards also on sale.

Free entry

*Maggie Chinchen*

## THE FIVE FINGER GRACE

Counting off on your fingers give thanks for:

1. God the giver of life
2. Farmers who brought in the harvest from land and sea
3. Food processors who add variety and longevity
4. Distributors and retailers who make it available
5. The person who shopped for and cooked the food.



## HOPE OVERFLOWS

### Hope overflows

In a dry land

Where butterflies dance  
In the cascading water  
That runs  
And fills up  
The buckets of a community.  
A stream of hope  
Captured to quench  
Sustain  
And grow.  
In this dry land  
Water is drawn up  
To bring sprouts of ambition.  
The dance of the butterflies  
Beckons hope in.  
For in this dry land  
They grow hope.

Hope will not disappoint us.

*Harvest Prayer from All We Can*

## THE IONIAN CREED

We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon, of water and earth,  
of male and female.  
We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the word made flesh,  
born of a woman, servant of the poor,  
tortured and nailed to a tree.  
A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief,  
he died alone and forsaken.  
He descended into the earth  
to the place of death.

On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven,  
to be everywhere present throughout all ages,  
and His kingdom will come on earth.  
We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit burning with Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church,  
Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of all resurrection and of eternal life.  
Amen

*From The Iona Worship Book*



## INTO THE GARDEN IN OCTOBER.....

Here are October's garden tips.

I am going to put my gardening tools away in the shed for the winter, but I hope to be back in March 2022, and return with a slightly different format.

1. October is ideal for seed collecting and sowing for next year. Collect seed heads and allow them to dry out and go brown. Shake to produce the seeds, label and store in a dry place.
2. From now on until early winter is the time to prune Roses, especially climbing Roses. This is a general prune, reducing size by about a third, to prevent wind rock.
3. Plant drifts of spring bulbs informally in a lawn, including crocus, daffodils and snakes head fritillaries.
4. Lift and pot up tender perennials, such as Chocolate Cosmos, Gazanias and Coleus to protect over winter.
5. Empty spent summer pots and hanging baskets, and compost the contents.
6. Plant evergreen shrubs and conifer hedge while the soil is still warm.
7. Leave some leaves to provide shelter and protection for wildlife and also leave some seed heads to overwinter to provide food for birds.
8. Protect plants from frost. Preparation is very important before frost, snow and high winds arrive. Check structures such as fences, sheds and gates. Protect any outdoor containers from frost using bubble wrap or fleece and where possible move pots of tender or half hardy plants into the greenhouse.



Autumn and winter months are good for tidying up your gardens, not too tidy though. Keep an area for the wildlife. It is also a time to plan and look forward to another gardening year and appreciate the joy it all brings.

*Robert Hill-Snook*

*Thank you, Robert, for all the help you give us throughout the busy months in the garden. I refer to your tips each month to help me look after and enjoy my garden. Have a good rest, and we look forward to next March!!*



## RECIPE FOR OCTOBER

### QUICK HOMEMADE NACHOS

#### Ingredients

1 bag of nachos. I use tangy cheese but whatever flavour is your favourite.

1 pot of salsa. We use hot but whatever is preferred.

Grated cheese- about 300g but add more or less to suit.

2-3 processed cheese slices

Sour cream and guacamole to serve optional



#### Method

1. When choosing your serving plate, it needs to be microwavable or to be able to go into the oven. I generally use a dinner plate but have used a serving platter for larger gatherings.
2. Tip 2/3 of the nacho crisps into your plate. This needs to be a single layer. If they overlap slightly that's fine.
3. Add a generous layer of grated cheese
4. Add teaspoons of the salsa dip to the cheese layer, add as much or as little as you like. Here you can also add sour cream and guacamole if preferred.
5. Add 1-2 slices of the processed cheese, torn up into smaller pieces. Cover as much of the salsa as possible.
6. Add another layer of nacho crisps. Ensure you cover the whole of the cheese and salsa.
7. Add another layer of cheese and the final torn piece of processed cheese. If desired add a few teaspoons of salsa.
8. Microwave for 1 minute until the cheese has melted. If using the oven have it preheated on low heat and it takes about 5 minutes.
9. Leave to cool slightly, add salsa, guacamole and sour cream to the nachos or serve on the side. Add cut up chillies if you would like extra heat.

#### Have fun with this recipe

- Ask your children to make this as a starter, or
- A quick snack for everyone in the garden, or
- Increase the quantities and serve for a gathering

## A GREEN QUIZ

### FOR ALL THE FAMILY

- 1 A well known saying – What is always greener on the other side?
- 2 What is the permit needed to work in the USA?
- 3 Name a fruit related to the plum.
- 4 What is a greenback?
- 5 Name the famous novel by Lucy Montgomery.
- 6 The Green Door was a 1981 UK hit for whom?
- 7 Where do celebrities relax before appearing on TV?
- 8 The 'Green Eyed Monster' is a well known phrase for jealousy. In which Shakespeare play does it play a central role?
- 9 Name a precious green stone.
- 10 Where is The Emerald Isle?
- 11 Who turned green when he got angry?
- 12 What product was advertised by The Jolly Green Giant?

*Thanks to the Salvation Army*

12	GREEN GIANT SWEETCORN
8	OTHELLO
5	ANNE OF GREEN GABLES
1	GRASS
2	GREEN CARD
3	GREENGAGE
4	A US DOLLAR
7	THE GREEN ROOM
6	SHAKIN' STEVENS
10	EMERALD
11	IRELAND
11	THE INCREDIBLE HULK

**ANSWERS**

## BIBLE TRIVIA



**What is the last word in the Bible?**

Answer: Amen

Amen being the last word in the Bible is significant. Even though the Bible is a collection of different books, its last word binds all of it together.

## ANAGRAM FOR OCTOBER

The anagram for October is: **CREATION**

REMEMBER:

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

NO capitalised words, and NO plurals.

*You probably realise by now that I love anagrams!! Well this word has eight letters, and I can make another eight letter word, and one or two other words that relate directly to creation. I am certain (7) you will do well.*

## STEYNING HISTORY SOCIETY

**Wednesday 13 October 2021**

**STEYNING CENTRE  
COOMBE COURT**

**7.30 p.m, for 7.45 p.m. start**

**The Victorian and  
Edwardian Era**

**By Ian and Mary Ivatt**

**Visitors welcome - £4.00**

## KEEP FOCUSED

What makes a great leader? Who would you name? Did he or she have tremendous determination? Were they completely focused on the task ahead, even if facing adversity?

David was a great leader in the Bible, and his story can be found in the Old Testament in 1 and 2 Samuel, and he faced many problems and adversity.

*"But David found strength in the Lord his God"*

*1 Samuel 30:6*

David had found that things were going very wrong for him and his men were losing faith in him, but then he refocused on God and what He was asking him to do, and he found the strength to lead his men again.

There are many situations we face that mean we have to make a decision that affects others. For example:

*You have had a row with your teenager, but you have a deadline to meet, and you do have to sit at your computer to finish this important project. What are you going to do?*

There are a few answers to this ranging from ignoring the row because you are in the right; to having an unsettling day because it is on your mind; to texting; to going back to talk to your teenager again before it all festers in their mind. What would you do and how would you manage the situation when you say Hi to your teenager again?

David made time to refocus on God. Can you do the same?

If you are like Steve McGrath and the only Christian at your workplace and people come to you with really challenging questions, think about how to help them to keep focused on God, so then they can rely on God rather than always on you!

## A CONVERSATION WITH GOD

### PRAYER

I struggle with prayer, and perhaps you do too. I was taught various words and rhythms when I was young, and I still use these on occasions, or I have a book of prayers I can call upon when I am feeling particularly blank.

Before any prayer time now, I try to remind myself that I am settling down to a conversation with God, not to change His mind about world events, or the things going on in my life and my community, but to help me to open my mind to forgiveness, and to the mysteries of living a life in friendship with Him. Sometimes silence, sometimes my words will follow, but there is greater peace.

*Chris Fitton*



From up there it felt like I could see the whole world: the oak trees adorned in summer's fading leaves, the fields at harvest, the city far in the distance. Each October my Grandad would load me and a bucket into Betsy, his faithful 1963 Ford Anglia. Together we'd cruise the county's back roads. Every few miles he would ease Betsy to a halt and inspect the landscape until finally declaring "this is the place". My bucket and me would be hoisted high up on his shoulders and from there I'd get my Grandad-stand view of the world. More importantly though it'd put me within reach of the treasure. The jewels we sought on our expeditions were sloes, the round purple-black berries that bedecked the blackthorn bushes. My Grandad was convinced that the finest fruits were located high on the hedge. And the best sloes made the best sloe gin.



Each spring the blackthorn hedges bloom, their brilliant white flowers blanket the countryside temporarily creating snow-white drifts against the woodlands and along our roadsides. These ephemeral petals soon fall and the blackthorn becomes cloaked with small, oval leaves capturing the energy which powers production of the sloes. A blackthorn bush is a prickly character and as approachable as an enraged porcupine. Each twig is armed with spikes which deter cattle and Grandads from helping themselves to its leaves and berries. This spiny spinney fortress also safeguards a wealth of wildlife. Nightingales, Turtle Doves and other birds nest under its protection and the elusive Brown Hairstreak butterfly lays its miniature sea urchin-like eggs on the bush's black bark.

Many years after my Grandad and Betsy had departed, I decided to honour them both and concoct my own sloe gin. I found an online recipe and, in what was and still remains one of the biggest disappointments of my adult life, I discovered that the main ingredient in sloe gin... was gin. After watching my Grandad making his moonshine I had genuinely believed that by submerging a load of berries in a bottle you would magically turn water into gin. It seems my Grandad couldn't perform miracles, indeed, looking back, our hedgerow pillaging raids could easily be dismissed as forced child labour. Was he exploiting me and my tiny hands to bypass those thorns and reach the best berries? A few decades earlier he'd probably have sent me down a mine or up a chimney. But my Grandad wasn't some Fagin-like character. Now I think of it I never once saw him actually drinking any of his sloe gin. Perhaps just being out in the countryside in the autumn sunshine on an adventure with Betsy and his grandson was the truly intoxicating ingredient.

*Michael Blencowe Head of Community Action for Wildlife*

## HARVEST

God saw everything that he had made,  
and indeed, it was very good.

*Genesis 1.31*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.

*Psalms 104.26*

In Christ all things in heaven and on earth  
were created,  
things visible and invisible –  
all things have been created through him  
and for him.

*Colossians 1.16*

You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honour and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they existed and were cre-  
ated.

*Revelation 4.11*