

**JANUARY 2022**

**FREE**



**Church  
Magazine**

**Steyning and  
Ashurst**

**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 (Choral Evensong on first Sunday)

**St James's**

10:30am Second Sunday Family Service

Fourth Sunday 1662 Holy Communion

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

11:30am Midweek Eucharist

**New Year's Day service on 1 January (see p17 for full details)**

**Reflections service will take place at 6pm on 9 January instead of the first Sunday**

**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)

Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

## PASTORAL LETTER



Dear Friends,

Along with many churches up and down the country we opt to transfer major festivals to the relevant Sunday because it can be hard to persuade people to come to church more than once each week. The rules for transferring Epiphany means that this feast will be kept unusually early this year, on Sunday 2 January. Candlemas, also known as the Feast of the Presentation will be transferred to the last Sunday in January. When we hear the word 'Epiphany' we think immediately of the visit of the wise men to Jesus as recorded in Matthew's Gospel but, because the word means 'manifestation', we will hear a series of Sunday Gospels over the whole of January with a focus of how God's love was 'manifested' in Jesus:

2 January: The visit of the Magi (readings from 6 January transferred)

9 January: The baptism of Christ (always celebrated as the First Sunday of Epiphany)

16 January: The miracle at the wedding in Cana

23 January: Jesus reads from the scroll in the synagogue in Nazareth

30 January: the young Jesus in presented in the Temple.

Because we will be keeping the important feast of the Epiphany on the day after New Year's Day someone suggested to me that we might not get much of a congregation, but I hope they are wrong. I was reading a report in a church newspaper analysing how congregational numbers are down, across all denominations, mainly because those who have come back no longer feel it's so important to worship every week. Whilst we might be forgiven for not feeling like attending church on Boxing Day – and it remains to be seen how many of us do! – the turn of a New Year might be a good opportunity for each of us to review our own pattern of attendance. We should be arranging our lives around our Christian worship rather than trying to squeeze it in when we can. Praying every day should in some way be a natural part of our lives, and coming together on Sunday, except when reasonably prevented from doing so, should be a joyful and welcome part of our lives.

As I write this letter early in December before Christmas, I cannot predict whether the spread of new variants of Covid-19 will affect our legal ability to worship. I pray not – and if not, dare we hope that we might see our congregational numbers increase in 2022 to something like levels we had before the start of the pandemic?

*Fr Mark*

## FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to 2022. I wish you a peaceful and healthy New Year, and I hope you can join the Start the Year Service at Steyning Parish Church. Details on page 17.

This is the time now to put away the Christmas decorations, but in our house I always leave at least one out for the whole year as a reminder of all that God has done, and continues to do for us all.

The front picture is a Pinterest picture entitled Christmas Nativity, and is a Pinterest take on a picture by Puerto Rican artist, Laura Rodrigues.

Please continue to send me any of your thoughts or pictures as we journey through this year.

Here is a reminder of where to send your contributions: [steyningchurchmag@gmail.com](mailto:steyningchurchmag@gmail.com)

*Thank you .*

## PARISH REGISTERS

### INTERMENT OF ASHES

25 November

Wendy Julie Clayton at Steyning

### HOLY BAPTISM

28 November 2021

Brody Adam Emmins



## 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

## For Information:

Bill and Judie Thomson, Churchwarden and Deputy at Steyning Parish Church have now moved to Steyning. Their new phone number appears on p26.

*Welcome to Steyning. We hope you will be very happy in your new home.*

## PRAYER DIARY FOR JANUARY

### **Saturday 1 January Naming and Circumcision of Jesus**

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was circumcised in obedience to the law for our sake and given the Name that is above every name: give us grace faithfully to bear his Name, to worship him in the freedom of the Spirit, and to proclaim him as the Saviour of the world; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

### **Sunday 2 January Epiphany (transferred)**

### **Thursday 6 January Epiphany**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: mercifully grant that we, who know you by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; 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 9 January The First Sunday of Epiphany**

### **Sunday 16 January The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

### **Sunday 23 January The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

### **Tuesday 25 January Conversion of Paul**

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we, who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; 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 30 January The Presentation of Christ (transferred)**

**Epiphany** means "to appear, or to manifest", and we celebrate Epiphany on 6 January, just 12 days after Christmas. It is the time we remember that Christ was manifested to the Magi when they visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. This time shows how the Good News of Jesus was, and is there for everybody across the world.

## THE MAGI



The Magi travelled with open minds and hearts to find this baby. We know very little about them, but they have been described as Kings or wise men, or astronomers, and Matthew is rather vague about where they came from too. We sing about three Kings, but it is not known how many came on that long and dangerous journey, and the material gifts they brought are named probably because Isaiah prophesied that there would be gold and frankincense, and it is possible that myrrh was added because this would be found in The East and used for funerals. This gift is thought to be foretelling Jesus' death. Because Herod was fearful and angry and wished to kill Jesus, they had to change their plans and went back home a different way. It is there that their important story seems to end.

One of the most striking things in Matthew's narrative is that when the Magi saw Jesus they fell on their knees and worshipped Him. They were the first Gentiles, in a long line up to today, to worship Jesus. My mental picture is of pure, silent and profound adoration because somehow they knew the Messiah had come, and was there before them as the Saviour. I think this is the moment that changed their lives. They had to choose a different way - a different road - back home because Herod was on the war-path, but also I think their different way was that they chose a different way of living because of their encounter with God and His Son, Jesus.

January is the time when we look back at the last year, and look forward to the new. A perfect time to assess things in our personal lives and in the world in general. Last year I gained so much more knowledge about climate change and about vaccinations, among other things, and I have managed to settle into a new rhythm in my days. All of these things I wish to continue into 2022, but also knowing that there will be some change round the corner especially if I pray with listening ears. An ending is also a time for new beginnings, and the rhythm of the change of year gives us and all of God's world a chance for rediscovery of beauty, opportunity, challenge, and meaning.

Part of my new rhythm has meant letting go. This can mean a form of "doing with less", or "self denial", but actually it has also meant I have found a generosity that is about abundant love through our Lord. Love will multiply when it is given away freely.

Jalal al-Din Rumi was born on September 30, 1207 in Balkh, Afghanistan, and this is his poem.

### ***Love is Reckless***

*Love is reckless; not reason.  
Reason seeks a profit.  
Love comes on strong,  
consuming herself, unabashed.*

*Yet, in the midst of suffering,  
Love proceeds like a millstone,  
hard surfaced and straightforward.*

*Having died of self-interest,  
she risks everything and asks for nothing.  
Love gambles away every gift God bestows.*

*Without cause God gave us Being;  
without cause, give it back again. .*

Rumi was a great Sufi mystic and this poem speaks to me of Jesus' life and that he would love us to embrace his wonderful extravagance of spirit and complete generosity. The wise men brought extravagant gifts to a baby, travelling miles and risking their own lives in doing so; Jesus fed the multitudes at the Sea of Galilee, not merely with just enough, but with 12 baskets full of left overs; Jesus healed on the Sabbath, and kept company with women and those thought of as impure.....You can carry on with examples of this large, open abundant love.

So as one year ends and another begins we are assured yet again that new beginnings are possible; assured about the rhythms of life; assured that changes can be made " do not be afraid, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" (Luke 12:32).

Jesus' life was one of love, and John the Baptist recognized this at His baptism even before the public ministry began; His first disciples gave up their regular lives for love; Mary Slessor (see Saint of the Month p13) found that her vocation was one of love for the people of Africa, which was not where she originally thought she should be. Love can be a bit messy, but if we can let God lead us this year, who knows what or who will come our way, and what our own dance will be.

*Chris Fitton*

## **I REMEMBER**



**thank  
you!**

A HUGE thank you to all who came along to the launch of the book, "I Remember", and we do hope that it has been enjoyed as a gift or for your own reading.

For further copies contact Chris Fitton (01903 816946) or Ian Ivatt (01273 491374)

All proceeds to The Friends of Steyning Parish Church

## PAUSE AND PRAY

The gift of the Christ-child is a gift for all. The true light, which enlightens everyone is revealed to be the light for the whole world. Jesus is a gift to all peoples, all places and all contexts. Our calling is perhaps first to allow this light to enlighten us, to make sure that we are not blocking the light in any way, but rather be filled with holy light.

Jesus, true light enlightening all,  
Help me today  
Not to block your light, but rather be filled with your light  
In and for your world.

*CMS*

We pray for all mission staff reflecting on the year that has passed and thinking about the year ahead. Pray for plans and opportunities; shared hopes and fears, and all with mental and spiritual needs.

We pray for all groups that gather together to pray and consider your word. Loving God, we thank you for the power of prayer; thank you that miracles are real; pour out your blessings on all small groups gathered in your name.

## AFGHANISTAN WINTER

Rebecca Paveley reports in The Church Times about the desperate plight within Afghanistan. She says that parents are selling their children to obtain food as millions teeter on the brink of starvation because humanitarian aid is crippled by international sanctions.

The UN World Food programme fear that the next six months will see about 23million people - about half the population - face starvation and below normal freezing temperatures. "To the world leaders, to the billionaires: imagine if this was your little girl or your little boy, or your grandchild about to starve to death. You would do everything you could. And when there is \$400 trillion of wealth on the earth today - shame on us if we let any child die from hunger. I don't care where that child is: shame on us." Mr Bearsley said in Afghanistan to BBC world editor Mr John Simpson. Mr Simpson wept.

The country 's international funds were frozen after the Taliban took over power, and millions of workers, including medical staff have not been paid for months. The country is also suffering from a severe drought.

Christian Aid is still working in Afghanistan distributing food, but it finds it impossible to run a proper humanitarian programme without a functioning banking system. Inaction risks innocent lives.



## JOYCE TOWNSEND – A TRIBUTE

Joyce was born on the 19 September 1923, a third daughter to Ethel and Frank. My grandfather was 46 when she was born and she remembered him always being a rather indulgent father – it was grandma who had to keep order! The family started life in Upminster in Essex, but then moved to Hillcrest Road, South Woodford. Both she and Mary remember helping their mother with 'Grandma' (always said in that gloomy tone), who came to live with them when she was widowed very young and could no longer 'cope'. I gather she was a right handful! Joyce went to Woodford County High School with her sisters. I remember seeing a handwritten note once that said something like she just knew when she was about 13 years old that 'Jesus was in her life and she was going to be alright'.

Joyce decided she wanted to be a nurse and to travel. She trained during the war at the Connaught Hospital which was in Walthamstow – it can't have been easy with all the fires and bombs in the East End, so perhaps that's where she learned to stay calm, professional and efficient. She then did her midwifery training. Sometime after that, she told me, she worked in a neurosurgical hospital in Wheatley, near where I live, and when she came to visit me once we went to the site, but it's now a secondary school and part of Oxford Brookes University and she didn't recognise it. She said she got off the bus from London in the centre of the village and walked there. She then decided to join the QAs (Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Service) and she remembered going to a very large house in Surrey for an interview. With the QAs she went to Singapore after the war; I asked her if she had to do marching and saluting, but she didn't remember having to do that at all. I did find a photo of her in her army uniform with a chap, and on the back she had written 'my new boyfriend Taj'!

In 1959 Joyce went with a missionary organisation to Tanganyika in East Africa and had to learn Swahili before going. I remember her sending back various woodcarvings of African animals as presents, but then one day before Christmas an *enormous* package arrived, which when we opened it, turned out to be a large drum, covered in zebra skin! We all had a go at drumming, but then it was used as a side table.

During this period of her life I didn't see her much (my mother did not get on well with her sisters). Each time she was on leave she borrowed some of my clothes as she had nothing warm to wear in England, and she visited her parents grave in St Peter's in the Forest. She would travel round various nursing friends and our scattered northern family in Yorkshire and Cumbria. Margaret McAuslen remembers Joyce teaching her some Swahili on visits to Selby. Tim and Wendy remember their father, Ted, calling her Fido, so she was aunty Fido to them. A little story she told me was about a coach holiday she once had – it was abroad somewhere in Europe. They stopped to see some church which was rather grand and up many steps. The custom was to climb the steps on your knees and put a chalk mark for each of your sins on subsequent steps; the next morning the coach driver told her he'd dreamt about her – she was

ahead of him, climbing the steps on her knees, but then he saw her rushing back down – why he asked – more chalk needed yelled Joyce!

Once she came home because she was ill, and spent time in the Tropical Diseases Hospital in London; I went to see her and she was still very jolly even though no particular diagnosis had been made. I think Mary thought she shouldn't return to Africa, but she did. She returned to the UK again in the early 70s to help Mary nurse their mother, who was living in Highgate near to Mary, and had terminal breast cancer. This was a very hard time for both of them, as they were both working as well. Joyce took a post at the Royal Northern Hospital in the Holloway Road, in the sexual health clinic – a bit of a change for her, but she said she enjoyed it and the team were very supportive. One day there, an NHS inspector came to visit and arrived early and asked to see the consultant; Joyce knew he was in the staff room enjoying a large ice cream, so she grabbed a kidney dish and cover, rushed into the staff room, announced the inspector had arrived, and at the same time put the dish in front of the consultant for him to ditch the ice cream just in time to turn round and give the chap a handshake.

She was asked to go back to east Africa again in the mid to late 70s as they wanted her to teach midwifery in Swahili. She was told there was a doctor in charge of the hospital so she went, but it turned out the doctor was an alcoholic and neither use nor ornament, so Joyce stepped up, and just then, they had a cholera outbreak. This was a critical emergency in a poorly resourced hospital up-country from the city, and Joyce worked day and night for weeks. After this she came home for good and was very weak and unwell. Each winter she would get a bad chest. Mary by then was living here in Steyning and took her under her wing and she bought a bungalow in Greenacres, where she was neighbours with Rosemary. Joyce was never 'worldly wise' and had few possessions and no financial awareness. Joyce and Mary would have Sunday lunch together, and Joyce joined the congregation here; she belonged to a church reading group (she had many books on theology and philosophy). She supported the church both financially, and with 'muscle' - she was on the cleaning rota, and helped plant the hundreds of daffodils that come out each spring on the banks outside along the road. I'm sure Rosemary knows of other things she did.

When Joyce fell and broke her right arm at the shoulder, Mary again came to help, but managed also to get some home carers to take the strain off her. Not long after that, in 2009, Joyce fell in the garden and broke her hip, so went into Southlands Hospital. Mary who by then was 88, had noticed a deterioration in Joyce's cognitive ability, which along with her deafness, and poor eyesight, led her to conclude that a care home would be the best option, and I remember coming down to help her secure a place in Croft Meadow, so that Mary could easily visit.

After Mary suddenly died in 2014 I regularly visited every month or so – sometimes she was bright and chatty, even singing a few of her little ditties, sometimes she was demented, imagining monkeys were climbing in the windows, and sometimes she was just asleep. She did remain able to walk a few steps with her frame up until a month or so before her death.

On my last visit to her on her 98<sup>th</sup> birthday, Rosemary cut her hair and we gave her presents and cards and she brightened up and chatted a bit: that's how I'd like to remember her.

Joyce was a single, professional woman, the kind who filled in when everyone else was absent or too busy; she was dedicated to nursing and to the church. But she was also a 'fun' aunty, with lots of funny rhymes and ditties and had a lovely singing voice.

*Barbara Engstrom.*

## THE GIFT OF BIBLE READING AND PRAYER

My morning Bible reading is guided by a little publication: 'The Upper Room'. Each daily meditation includes a Bible reading, reflection, prayer and thought to ponder. There is a different author each day with a snippet from their life's journey, and what they have learned from it. It is very suited to our busy lives, offering comfort or inspiration in a condensed fashion.

Occasionally there is time to let one's mind go 'off piste' to grasp at other wonders in the Bible.

I was reading Exodus 17. 1-7. The Israelites had cried out to God in their slavery, and God heard them and sent them Moses. The Israelites were thirsty in the desert on their journey from Egypt. They blamed Moses for their plight. It was left to Moses to complain to God. God instructed Moses to walk ahead with some elders (presumably as witnesses) to produce water from a rock at Horeb. Was this miracle a result of Moses' complaint, or was the water at Horeb always part of God's plan for their journey from Egypt? Moses had learned to trust God with everything, but the Israelites were reliant on Moses as an intermediary, and in hard times could not trust him. The Old Testament has kings, prophets, judges all as intermediaries. It gave me a deeper understanding of God's gift of His Son.

In the New Testament we see that the people continue to worship God through the medium of priests and ritual, and are very reliant on them as intermediaries. In Luke's gospel, we are shown that the disciples were inspired to ask Jesus to teach them to pray, and Jesus taught them what we now know as 'The Lord's Prayer'. Jesus' life, teachings and death gave us direct access to God, a God we can communicate with directly by prayer, as Abba or Father. Our prayer can be led as in corporate worship and prayer, or it can be private at home, in a garden or wilderness, or while shopping or washing up. It can be worshipful, complaining, pleading, bewildered, angry, thankful, joyful; it can be anything, even a conversation between friends if it is offered to God. What freedom, what a privilege. Let us thank God daily for this gift.

*Mary Travers*

## SAMS



**St Andrews Men's Society** is a meeting of a group of male members of Steyning Parish Church and guests.

We meet bi-monthly in the Penfold Hall on a Friday evening at 7.30 pm beginning with a glass or two of wine and nibbles. Then we enjoy a talk given by one of our members or perhaps an outside speaker

Our next meeting is scheduled for **Friday 14 January** to which we would welcome all male members of our church and guests.

Larry Culliford will be addressing us on his journey in spirituality so far.  
Ray Jones will be addressing us in March.

Do come along to our 2 hour meeting and be inspired amongst friends.

Any enquiries please to Leonard Warner (01903 812752)

## THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

### SALE OF CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thank you to everyone who bought Christmas Cards.



Although fewer cards were sold this year than in previous years, reflecting a trend which has been apparent for some time, your support will have resulted in an addition of £75 to the Society's funds.

*David Fitton*

## COMMUNITY COFFEE



There is a new time and a change of location for Wednesday Coffee. Please join us for a delicious cup of real coffee, or a cup of tea, and a chat at **the Penfold Hall**.

The doors are open from **9am until 11.30am** every **Wednesday morning**.

*Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team*

## SAINT OF THE MONTH

### MARY SLESSOR, MISSIONARY (1848-1915)

Mary Slessor was born in 1848, the child of a poor family in Aberdeen. When she was a teenager she started working amongst the deprived youth of Dundee seeing this as her Christian vocation. From the age of eleven she had been working in a linen mill in Dundee for twelve hours a day, six days a week, whilst studying at night to equip her for work in the mission field.

In 1876 she joined the Scots United Presbyterian Mission working mainly in West

Africa and was sent to the Niger Delta. Mary became fluent in the local languages and refused to live in a European mission compound at a safe distance from the locals living instead with "her people". She gathered around her a household of outcast women and adopted unwanted children, especially twins who were usually put to death because of the local superstitious belief that one of them had been fathered by the devil but, not knowing which, both were killed.



*Mary Slessor  
with a boy,  
Nigeria c 1910*

Mary adopted the culture of the people, unlike most missionaries of that time, but was vigorous in opposing the local traditions of trial by ordeal, witchcraft and human sacrifice. She was successful in eventually abolishing such practices altogether. She encouraged trade, as much for its civilising effects on the people as for the financial benefits.

Mary earned the respect of both the local leaders and the British Colonial administration and was often called upon to arbitrate in tribal disputes and, in 1892, she was appointed as the British Vice-consul. At this time that was an unusual role for a missionary - and especially as Mary was a woman. She became famous in Britain, being dubbed "the white queen of Calabar" following articles about her in books and magazines.

To "her people" she was simply known as "Ma Slessor" and remained in Africa to the end of her life, dying at Itu in 1915 at the age of 67. Her life is commemorated in the Church's calendar on 11 January.

## STEYNING PARISH CHURCH ORGAN APPEAL

Music is very important in the 12<sup>th</sup> century Church of St Andrew and St Cuthman, both to enhance worship and as a venue in Steyning for concerts. We are fortunate to have a professional organist and a large choir.

A new pipe organ was installed in the 1960s and had a major overhaul in 2010. In 2011 an electronic enhancement was added financed by the Friends of Steyning Parish Church. The computer, software, amplifier and speakers enabled the dramatic and varied sounds of an American cathedral organ to be added to the original pipe organ.

Recently, loud crashes and bangs caused by the ageing computer and software have interrupted the music and the electronics have sometimes needed to be switched off leaving only the pipe organ working.

To fix this, the computer and software need to be replaced at a cost of £4,750. The VAT can be reclaimed under the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme and £750 has been allocated from a small church fund restricted to expenditure on the organ and choir. £4,000 therefore needs to be raised.

**If you love music and wish to donate, here's what to do:**



Please send your donation in one of two ways:

**On-line:** PCC Steyning  
Sort code 30-99-93  
Account No 03220862  
Reference "Organ"

**or post your cheque** made out to **Steyning PCC** to the **Church Office, Penfold Hall, 35 Church Street, Steyning BN44 3YB**  
Mark your envelope "Organ Appeal"

***BOOST YOUR DONATION BY 25p FOR EVERY £1 YOU DONATE***

If you are a taxpayer, please e-mail [treasurer@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:treasurer@steyningparishchurch.org) and ask for a Gift Aid form

## PURE GENIUS

One of the richest and most powerful men in Brazil, Thane Chiquinho Scarpa, made waves when he announced plans to bury his million-dollar Bentley so he could drive around his afterlife in style. He received lots of media attention, mostly negative and was severely criticized for the extravagant gesture, and the wasting of a precious commodity. Why wouldn't he donate the car to charity? How out of touch with reality was this guy? He still went ahead with the ceremony. BUT, there's a twist.

Moments before lowering the car into the ground prepared for the burial of his Bentley, he declared that he wouldn't bury his car, and then revealed his genuine motive for the drama: Just to create awareness for organ donation.

"People condemn me because I wanted to bury a million dollar Bentley, in fact most people bury something a lot more valuable than my car," Scarpa said during a speech at the ceremony. "They bury hearts, livers, lungs, eyes, kidneys. This is absurd. So many people waiting for transplants, and you bury your healthy organs that could save so many lives!"

Worth a thought



For more information about organ donation visit  
<https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk/>



## BN44 REPAIR CAFÉ – WHY, HOW, WHERE!

How often have you purchased something only to be disappointed about what a short time it lasted? Well, there is now something you can do! You can bring your broken item to the new BN44 Repair Café in Upper Beeding Village Hall.

We use volunteers with a wide range of skills to offer you the chance to extend the life of an item that is no longer working or needs fixing. It is free to use although you will be expected to pay for any materials or spare parts needed. Satisfied users are encouraged to make a donation to help cover costs but that is not mandatory and shouldn't stop you using this service.

We may make repairs which are not financially viable for a business, like the hedge trimmer that was condemned by a local business, but resurrected by one of our volunteers who took many hours re-building the gearbox and fixing the carburettor. But mainly we will make simple small repairs, like the DAB radio that stopped working and it turned out there was a small switch on the back that had been knocked to the wrong setting, or the food processor that just needed a thorough internal clean to allow the switches to operate correctly.



*This lawn scarifier needed a new drum, our repairers helped by fitting it.*

Since August 2021 we have been operating at Upper Beeding Village Hall once a month on Saturday afternoons. You can get a tea or coffee and delicious cake, chat to our repairers and in some cases help them make the repair. We have also been offering a sharpening service for garden tools, scissors and knives, although the garden tool sharpening will stop over winter. We are very proud to say that since August, we have received 174 repairs, successfully completed 115, and provided advice on the others, and we have sharpened 276 items. We repaired a wide range of small electrical items, clothes, bags, picture frames, garden equipment, toys, clocks, watches, simple computer problems, bikes and various other household items.

**The next few cafés are 15 Jan, 12 Feb, 12 March, from 2:00-4:00 in Upper Beeding Village Hall.** You can find further information by searching for BN44 Repair Café on Facebook. If you aren't sure whether we'll be able to help, you can leave a message on Facebook or drop us an email [repaircafe@greeningsteyning.org](mailto:repaircafe@greeningsteyning.org)

Do get in touch if you'd like to join our band of volunteer repairers. We look forward to hearing from you or seeing you at one of our cafés.



## THE START OF THE NEW YEAR

### START THE YEAR ... WITH A SERVICE AND A SHERRY!

New Year's Day always falls on the same day of the week as Christmas Day! That's a good way of remembering that our service called **Start the Year** will be on:

**Saturday 1 January at 10.30 am.**

We missed out last year because of the pandemic but we intend to start with double the enthusiasm on our return! Start the Year has gained a growing following since it began a few years ago and is a lovely way to say farewell to the past year and hello to the new one.

That may be something to do with the sherry which follows it!

This short service combines reflection and joy and is very relaxed. It provides just the opportunity to begin the new year in a way that is spiritual and sustaining, and at the same time draws us together in worship in the Celtic tradition.

So, remember – Saturday 1 January 2022 at 10.30 am. Hope to see you there.

## TIP OF THE MONTH



*Winter sunset over*

*Sussex Wildlife Trust*

Even though it is winter there are many reasons to get outdoors and enjoy our natural world: stunning sunsets, frost patterns on plants and droplets of water on spiderwebs are just a few examples. Wear a few more layers, enjoy and thank God.

## REPAIR CAFÉ 2pm - 4pm

**15 January at Beeding and Bramber Village Hall**

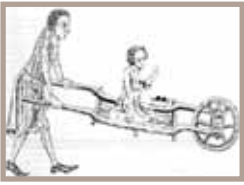
Volunteer repairers will help you try to fix your broken item - from small electricals and computers, to zips and bikes.

Tea and cake and an opportunity to chat about all things green.

Can you help? email [repaircafe@greeningsteyning.org](mailto:repaircafe@greeningsteyning.org)

or find them on Facebook for further details





## THE STEYNING SOCIETY

### "A history of the Goodwood Motor Racing Circuit" an illustrated talk by Hilly Sloan.

Hilly is a professional tour guide and history graduate. She is an authority on Goodwood Estate and Chichester. She is a keen walker and a very lively speaker.

**Tickets are available in advance from The Steyning Book Shop and are free to members and £3 to guests.**

In the interests of safety, we continue to limit tickets to 70. There may be tickets available on the door. We respectfully ask that masks be worn on arrival.

## CHURCH FLOWERS FOR JANUARY



1 Jan. Christmas  
8 Jan. Julia Elliott  
15 Jan. Julia Elliott  
22 Jan. Carol McKechnie  
29 Jan. Carol McKechnie

At the start of this New Year, with hopes of a safer and healthier year, the Flower Team are looking forward to producing some beautiful flower arrangements to welcome everyone to the church. We are very fortunate to have a great team of 18 ladies who generously give of their time and talents. We welcome anyone who would like to join us and at the present time we are in need of two more ladies or

gentlemen to join us.

*Carol McKechnie*

## THE CHURCH COTTAGE

### HELP IMPROVE OUR CHURCH COTTAGE

Last year, the Co-op Community Fund helped us to raise over £4,400 towards new churchyard lighting. This is due to be installed along the church footpath once we have obtained the necessary planning and diocesan permissions.

Buoyed by that success, we applied to the following round of Co-op Community Funding, and are pleased to say that our scheme for partial refurbishment of Church Cottage has been accepted. This funding will allow it to be brought up to current standards, enabling it to be used to benefit the wider community.

All you need to do is become a member of the Co-op. You can either do this within the store or online. Once you've registered your card you choose us as 'your local cause'. If you're already a member of the Co-op and have not logged-on recently, you may need to reset your password (a simple operation if you have the same email address). Then, every time you purchase selected Co-op branded products and services, our fund will benefit.

For promotional reasons, you will find our cause at the Co-op under the **Steyning Community Cottage** name. Thank you all very much.

*Bill Thomson*

## DESMOND TUTU – A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS



One definition of a saint which I like is: "someone who is like a window who lets the love of God shine through". By that definition, I consider Archbishop Desmond Tutu to be a contemporary saint.

His life has been more than full. Starting as a teacher, he trained for the ministry in South Africa and studied at King's College, London for his Master's degree. Following a spell as Bishop of Lesotho, and then General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches, he became Archbishop of Cape Town, the most senior Anglican position in South Africa. He has been awarded numerous honorary degrees and honours - including the Nobel Peace Prize.

It is easy to get Tutu's books online or from the local bookshop. He is a clear and engaging writer. The books have inviting titles and a wide range of contents – always linked with his deep spirituality, which is fostered by a lifetime of early morning prayer. The books include: **The Rainbow People of God: South Africa's Victory over Apartheid; No Future without Forgiveness: In God's Hands; God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for our Time; God is not a Christian: Speaking Truth in Times of Crisis, The Book of Forgiving: The fourfold path for healing ourselves and our world (with his daughter Mpho); and The book of Joy (with the Dalai Lama).**

There are also two great biographies of him: **Rabble Rouser for Peace; The Authorized biography** by John Allen, and **Tutu: The Authorised Portrait**, by Allister Sparks and Tutu's daughter Mpho.

I have met the Archbishop several times in connection with my church work, and was privileged to write a chapter in a book published recently to honour him on his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

One of the other contributors included a really good contemporary comment. He said that Tutu was a great exemplar of the phrase we have become familiar with during lockdown from zoom - "unmute yourself". I think this applies to Desmond Tutu in three senses. 1) He found his own distinctive voice as a powerful opponent of apartheid and racism, and a great advocate of reconciliation, justice and peace. 2) He acted as a "voice for the voiceless". And 3) He serves as an inspiration for others to speak out and find their voice.

May our worship and work as a parish inspire and encourage us, within our possibilities and as occasions present themselves, to speak out like Archbishop Tutu.

*Roger Williamson*

## WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE

*We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar;  
Field and fountain, moor and  
mountain,  
Following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.*

The author and composer, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Hopkins wrote the carol around 1857, based on the narrative of the journey of the magi in Matthew 2:1-12. It was first published in the author's *Carols, Hymns, and Songs* (1863). Hopkins was not ordained into the Episcopal Church in the United States until 1872, and then went on to serve in a parish in New York and then in Pennsylvania.

"We three kings" is usually performed in a

rather plodding - like tempo giving the feel of the long journey of the magi, and this has an appeal for both children and adults. It is a very dramatic epiphany carol separating out the kings within the verses, and with the refrain telling of the star that they followed.

We are invited to follow that star too "*Guide us to thy perfect light*"



## BOOK OF HOURS



The Adoration of The Magi

from

Book of Hours, France, Paris,

between 1230 and 1239

The three magi wear crowns, but one wears a hooded garment and holds a gold ciborium. The kneeling king holds out a gold vessel to the right hand of the Christ child seated on the lap of the Virgin Mary. Jesus also holds a book in his left hand. The third king holds a golden ciborium in his left hand and has his right hand raised - as in a blessing?

## RECIPE FOR JANUARY

### QUICK HOME MADE NAAN BREAD.

I found this a handy recipe when my oven door fell off a few weeks ago!

#### INGREDIENTS

- 2 ½ cups Plain Flour
- ½ teaspoon Bicarbonate of Soda
- 1 teaspoon Sugar
- ¾ teaspoon Salt
- ½ cup Yogurt
- ¼ cup Water
- 1 tablespoon Oil
- Optional: 2 tablespoons Garlic chopped
- Sesame Seeds and Onions Seeds (for sprinkling) and melted butter for brushing

I use a griddle pan but a frying pan would work just as well.



#### METHOD

1. In a large bowl, mix together flour, bicarbonate of soda, sugar and salt. Stir to combine well.
2. Add yogurt and oil and knead into the flour. Start adding water little by little and knead as you go till you get a soft, supple dough. You may not need the entire quantity of water so add only as much as you require. If the dough feels too dry, add water by the teaspoon or some extra flour if the dough feels little wet.
3. Cover with a damp towel and set aside in a warm place for 25 - 30 minutes. If your kitchen is chilly rest the dough for 1.5 - 2 hours. But in warmer kitchens 30 minutes is sufficient. I usually rest for 1 - 1.5 hours.
4. Heat a flat non-stick pan or skillet.
5. Divide the dough into lemon sized balls. Dust a ball of dough in flour. Lightly roll out the dough to ¼ inch thickness without applying too much force. Use a little flour if the dough is sticky. The shape doesn't matter.
6. Brush the top lightly with water, and sprinkle with sesame and onion seeds and chopped garlic if using. Lightly press so that they stick to the dough. Turn it over, and brush the other side well with water - this helps the naan stick to the pan.
7. Make sure your pan is really hot. Now place the bottom side down on the pan so that the side with sesame seeds is facing up. Wait for 5 seconds and cover with a lid, which should be big enough to cover the naan. The naan starts forming air pockets. Wait for 45 seconds and then flip the naan to cook it on the other side. Cook for approx. 30 seconds, pressing down lightly to help it cook evenly. The naan is ready. Brush it with butter immediately and serve!

*This looks really great - cannot wait to try it. Perfect also for Gluten free diets by substituting the plain flour for gluten free flour. Thank you.*

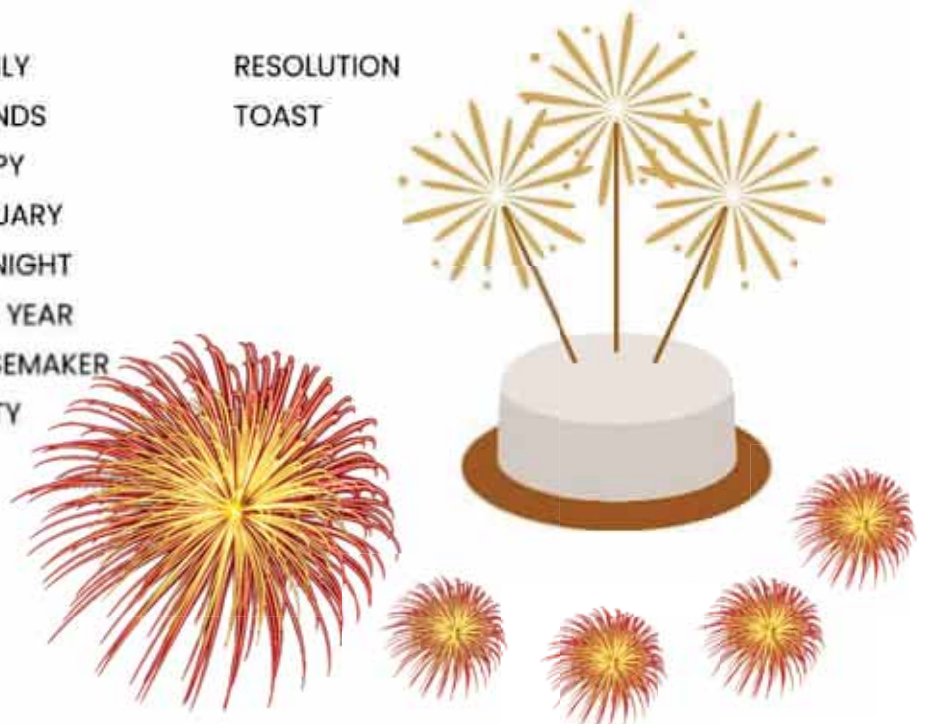
# New Year's Word Search

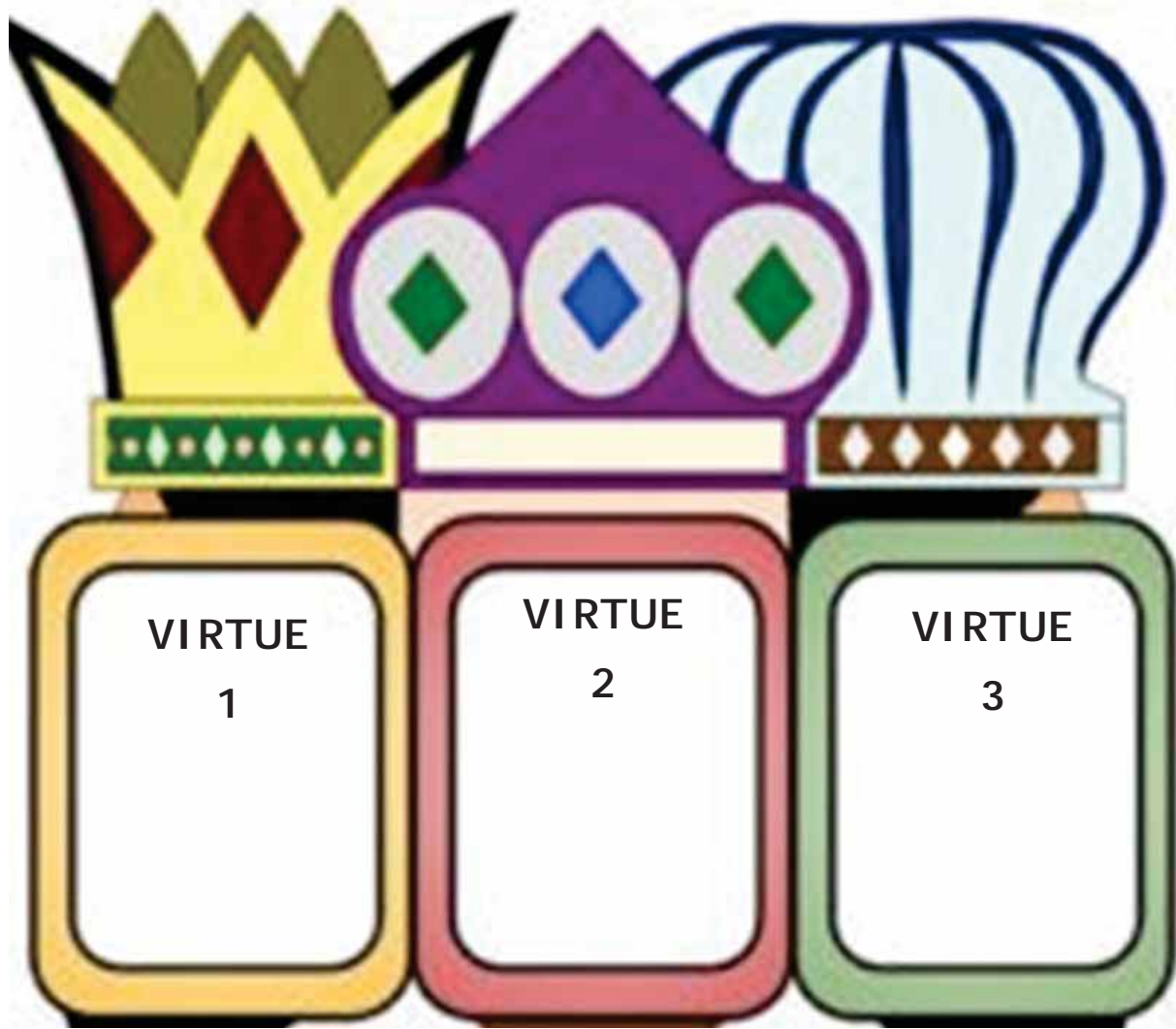
J A N U A R Y F R I E N A C E  
F R I E N D S Y A S R I L A H  
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R U V E W M I D N I G H T A T  
V T O A S T W S N O L Y I R D  
G I A N I N G S E V E U A R O  
C O N F E T T I T M I N G S W  
R N O L C E L E B R A T I O N  
A J A N U E L V E I M K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

BABY  
BALL  
CALENDAR  
CELEBRATION  
CLOCK  
CONFETTI  
COUNTDOWN  
EVE

FAMILY  
FRIENDS  
HAPPY  
JANUARY  
MIDNIGHT  
NEW YEAR  
NOISEMAKER  
PARTY

RESOLUTION  
TOAST





## THE THREE CROWNS

Think of three virtues you would most like rulers of the world to possess so we work towards a peaceful world and a world working to stop climate change.

## GOD'S WORLD IS IMPORTANT

### MAKE A STAR

Make a very simple star by gluing lollypop sticks together to make a 5 or 6 pointed star.

Paint and decorate with cut up coloured paper, perhaps from a magazine.

Add string or ribbon to hang.



## ANAGRAM FOR JANUARY

The anagram for January is: **RESOLUTIONS**

### REMEMBER:

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

NO capitalised words, and NO plurals.

*Even with no plurals allowed, and the word has two s's, I can find a lot. I will not INSULT your intelligence by giving you another SOLUTION!!*



## MINI QUIZ ABOUT JESUS

1. What does the name Jesus mean in Hebrew?
2. How old was Jesus when he was baptized?
3. What was the occupation of Joseph?
4. Jesus and John the Baptist were related, what was this relationship?

ANSWERS  
1. God Saves  
2. 30  
3. Carpenter/Architect  
4. Second Cousins

## THE ARTS SOCIETY STEYNING

### British Architecture in India

by Prasannajit de Silva

Monday 10 January 2022      10:00am - 12:00.

A look at the variety of architectural styles adopted by the British during the period of the Empire in India for public and private buildings. These range from the neo-classical and Gothic revival to the so-called Indo-Saracenic and even the Art Deco. Looking at examples from Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi and elsewhere, we will also consider what the shifting approaches may tell us about British attitudes to the imperial project.

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, BN44 3XZ      01903 812042

Free to members, £10 donation for visitors.

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

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



Waxwings are dumpy, starling-sized birds which look like characters from a Beryl Cook painting– all silky curves, coiffured crests and heavy make-up. Imagine an orange / brown hand grenade wearing eye shadow and you're almost there. Add to it black, white and yellow wings accessorised with a row of shiny, scarlet teardrops. These waxy red feather tips, which give the bird its name, are believed to be used in courtship; the biggest and best wing-bling belonging to the older males.

Waxwings roam in gangs – you're more likely to see twelve than one. To be next to a berry-laden bush when a flock descends is akin to being sat in a quiet pub when a drunken hen party bursts through the door. Waxwings announce their arrival with high-pitched chattering and excited trills and greedily squabble over berries as if they were fighting over half-price handbags in the January sales.

Waxwings love berries. They can eat their own body weight in just a few hours. Once this flock of feathered locusts have chomped their way through one berry bush they fly off to ransack another. Their reliance on berries is the cause of their irregular migrations or 'irruptions'. Every few years a failure in the berry crop in their eastern Scandinavian and northern Russian homeland sparks a winter-long, Europe-wide berry guzzling rampage which eventually leads them to our island.



They're not fussy where they dine; industrial estates, petrol station forecourts, parks and gardens - anywhere that can lay on a decent berry buffet. The ornamental bushes planted around supermarket car-parks are a good place to look for them.

British 'Waxwing winters' are by no means an annual event and we may go for years without any waxwing sightings in the Horsham district. Meanwhile we have already been invaded by other Scandinavian tourists – Redwing and Fieldfare have flocked to our parks and gardens while along the Adur you may catch a glimpse of the impressive Short-eared Owl.

There was once a time when people believed that the rare appearance of a flock of Waxwings was an evil omen; a portent of disaster, war or pestilence. Well, I'm willing to take that chance for a glimpse of one of these beauties. I mean, 2022 can't be worse than the past two years, can it?

## THE MAGI VISIT THE MESSIAH

### MATTHEW 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

*"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for out of you will come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

