

JUNE 2022

FREE



Church Magazine

Steyning and Ashurst

# Steyning Parish Church,

1 Vicarage Lane, Steyning BN44 3YL

**Vicar:** The Revd Mark Heather LLB BA

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## CHURCH SERVICES

### St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist (**NB.**10:30am Platinum Jubilee Service on 5 June  
Music Group Eucharist on 19 June)

6:00pm Evening Service (Said Eucharist for the Day of Pentecost on 5 June  
Reflections Service on 12 June  
Choral Evensong on 19 June)

### St James's

10:30am Second Sunday Family Service (12 June)

Fourth Sunday 1662 Holy Communion (26 June)

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

11:30am Midweek Eucharist

### Sunday 5 June

10:30am Steyning Festival Platinum Jubilee Service (*note time*)

### Sunday 12 June

6:00pm Reflections Service entitled "The Trinity, the Nature of God". (See poster on page 4)

## Parish Office Address:

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Steyning BN44 3YB

Tel: 813276

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

Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

## PASTORAL LETTER



Dear Friends,

### **Pilgrimage**

I don't know if any of you recently saw the TV programme *Pilgrimage*? It followed a group of celebs from different faith backgrounds and beliefs along a route taken by the Irish-Scottish sixth century saint, Columba. If you haven't I recommend it. We noticed it particularly as I've been in the middle of writing my dissertation, one of the subjects of which is St Columba, and I think that it was clear that every single one of the participants has learned something significant about themselves or about their faith by the time they came to the end of their journey.

And also I was drawn by the idea of pilgrimage. It has become a bit trite to say that life is a journey, but the metaphor of pilgrimage captures not just that, but the fact that, for our lives to have meaning, that journey, like pilgrimage, needs to be one that has religious or spiritual significance. A pilgrimage journey is usually taken to an important religious place. Like St James of Compostela in Spain. Or here in England, Canterbury. And it and will take in other resting places on the route - indeed we have pilgrims calling at Steyning from time to time, as a resting place on their route.

The idea of life as pilgrimage has particular resonance for Andrew and I at the moment as we come to the end of our time at Steyning and move on to West Grinstead and Partridge Green. My ordination is on July 3 in Brighton and the journey to ordination has been a significant one for us. Steyning has been a resting place for too short a time, but we will leave it refreshed by so much, including the friendships we have made and worship of our great and wonderful God that we have shared.

As you all continue on the next stages of your own pilgrimages we will keep you all in our prayers, and value your prayers for us for the next stage of our pilgrimage of faith.

*Caroline Armitage*



## FROM THE EDITOR:

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Ukraine and all its people and leaders.

We welcome to Steyning and Ashurst two families who have fled the war, and we pray for them as they gently settle into a new life here.

Please also remember the Russians who are caught up in the war and especially those who have lost their loved ones and those who do not wish for war.

The picture on the cover is entitled "Pentecost" and is by Art 4 Prayer.

Please continue to send your contributions: [steyningchurchmag@gmail.com](mailto:steyningchurchmag@gmail.com)

*Thank you .*



## PARISH REGISTERS

### INTERMENT OF ASHES (STEYNING CHURCHYARD)

26 April Joyce Townsend. (died 20 October 2021)

### HOLY BAPTISM

1 May 2022 Toby Mark Hallett

### FUNERALS

7 May John Sear (died 17 April)

20 May Michael William (Mick) Hodges  
(died 25 April)

## 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

## PRAYER DIARY FOR JUNE

**Sunday 5 June      Sunday before Trinity**

**Saturday 11 June      Barnabas the Apostle**

Bountiful God, giver of all gifts, who poured your Spirit on your servant Barnabas and gave him grace to encourage others: help us, by his example, to be generous in our judgements and unselfish in our service; 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 12 June      Trinity Sunday**

**Thursday 16 June      Corpus Christi**

Lord Jesus Christ, we thank you that in this wonderful sacrament you have given us the memorial of your passion: grant us so to reverence the sacred mysteries of your body and blood that we may know within ourselves and show forth in our lives the fruits of your redemption; for you are alive and reign with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Sunday 19 June      The First Sunday after Trinity**

**Friday 24 June      The birth of John the Baptist      Ember Day**

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake; 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.

**Saturday 25 June      Ember Day**

**Sunday 26 June      The Second Sunday after Trinity**

**Wednesday 29 June      Peter and Paul, Apostles**

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles, Peter and Paul, glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation, 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,

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY CHURCH!

Before ascending to heaven Jesus had instructed the apostles to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. While waiting the apostles chose Matthias to replace Judas (the apostle who betrayed Jesus and then killed himself). It was during the Jewish feast of Pentecost that the Holy Spirit came upon the apostles, just as Jesus had promised. There were so many people gathered in Jerusalem at that time because everyone celebrated Shavuot, a thanksgiving for the first of the harvest of barley and wheat. It was also a time to remember how the people of Israel arrived in the land, and never to take it for granted, and so Shavuot was a time to remember the giving of the Law of Moses. Much to celebrate, and many different languages filled the streets from the Jewish pilgrims.

I am absolutely not a linguist, and have huge admiration for those who are. David still remembers much of his schoolboy Latin, but sadly that was of little help to him when we went to France for holidays! It did, however, help when we visited churches or cathedrals, which we loved to do, and I am still very lazy and let others do the translating for me.

The apostles received the gifts of the Spirit, and one was the power to be able to speak to anyone in their own language, as they journeyed to Jerusalem. They must have been so astonished at this unexpected turn of events, but didn't flinch from the opportunity to tell anyone and everyone about Jesus in the language they understood. After Peter preached the first gospel sermon it is reported that 3000 people were baptized.

This is why Pentecost is the birthday of the church.

The Holy Spirit empowers us. We all have spiritual gifts of many different kinds - to pray quietly or aloud; to teach children in our families or adults or anyone in a specific setting; to talk to others about what matters to them, or about Jesus, or about moral issues etc; to witness to Christ by how you live and love and talk and walk your journey. There is one other gift that is mentioned in this story of the coming of the Holy Spirit, but not often said in the list of gifts. Before the disciples received the Holy Spirit they were afraid, worried to show their faces because they might be recognized as Jesus' friends, even denied Him, and when they were speaking in other languages many laughed at them, said they were drunk, and rejected them, even though 3000 were converted. The Holy Spirit gave them the inner strength to manage rejection. This is true today for us too.

The Holy Spirit changed the disciples, and in the past couple of years and these past months we have seen such community love and service here in Steyning and Ashurst as the response to neighbourly help during lockdown, understanding of others who are vulnerable, donating where possible to food banks, to FSW, and the bags for Syrian families who are homeless. Now helping the Ukrainian families here.

You can increase this list because you have been involved. Thank you.

These instances are just the tip of thousands of the Holy Spirit working within the church for the sake of God's suffering world. This is the very same fire that touched the disciples and turns people from being turned in on themselves to being turned towards the world having love as the foundation of the communities.

We watch on the TV deep grief and feel that too, and we fear too because struggle and suffering cause fear, just as the disciples feared. But I believe that God will build a future if we choose to depend on Him and He will continue to give power to discern God's Kingdom and to seek his love, peace, mercy, justice and grace.

Love is the language God calls us to speak.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

*1 Corinthians 13 v 4 - 6*

Birthdays are happy events. This birthday say "Come, Holy Spirit, Come"

*Chris Fitton*

## WEAR RED FOR PENTECOST

Jesus Loves You  
Исус любить тебе  
يسوع يحبك  
Jésus vous aime  
Gesù ti ama  
Jesus elsker deg  
İsa seni seviyor

In some places, it is traditional to wear red at Pentecost. We could all do this too.

Red represents the flames that descended on the disciples of Jesus at the first Pentecost, and it is the liturgical colour of the day.

Notice the chasuble that the priest taking the service will wear. It will be red.





## EASTER FLOWERS



*With thanks to Jim Lang for these photographs,  
also to the flower team for their skill and the joy they have given to so many*

"If you miss the sunrise I made for you this morning - never mind. I'll make another tomorrow".  
*God*



## PAUSE AND PRAY FOR UKRAINE AND PEACE



Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring. Lord may your Kingdom come, and Your will be done.

**We pray** that people still in Ukraine will be protected from the violence; that there will be provision of essential food and clean water; for vulnerable people who cannot flee.

That refugees will find safe places to stay. For healing for people who are wounded or have experienced trauma; and comfort for those who are grieving. We pray that international leaders will know wisdom and understanding, strength, courage and compassion.

### **Ukrainian citizens ask that we pray:**

- That God would intervene in the situation and stop the violence
- For God's wisdom for the presidents and authorities of both countries
- That God will care for those who are in danger, especially for Ukrainian people who lost their beloved ones, for His comfort and protection over them and the church

### **Please also pray for Russia:**

- That God will comfort Russian families who have lost their beloved ones

Liberator God,  
Guide us along a righteous path,  
Lift the burden from our shoulders,  
Clear our minds and fill our hearts  
with love.

May we walk with the vulnerable  
And sow seeds of goodness  
wherever we go.  
Let us pursue justice, peace and  
harmony.

Almighty God,  
No border can limit your love and  
mercy  
You reach the most remote places  
and the unlikeliest people.  
May we emulate your generosity  
Loving and respecting all around us.  
Help us to build community, trust and  
dignity  
Teach us to be living stones.

## STEYNING CHURCH'S FIVE YEAR VISION

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is often a formality – one of those things which the Church of England requires from all parishes, in order to report to the parishioners about the state of the church building, its finances, and the electoral roll, and to elect new members of the parochial church council (PCC). The Steyning APCM, which this year was held in church after the 9:30am service on 24 April, follows on from the vestry meeting, the main purpose of which is to elect the churchwardens for the coming year – the current wardens continuing without change. This year we did see Wendy Francis standing down from her role as one of the two deputy wardens, for which she received our heartfelt thanks, especially as she will be continuing in several of her previous roles.

What made this year's Steyning APCM different, and encouraged many of our congregation to remain in church after the service (though the coffee and excellent cakes may have helped) was the unveiling of our Five Year Vision. The diocese had asked all parishes to come up with a Mission Action Plan, the basics of which the PCC had discussed at an Away Day held at Dalesdown, near Ashurst, in October 2021. The discussions had been facilitated by the Revd Canon Rob Dillingham, the Diocesan Parish Development Officer and Deputy Director for Apostolic Life. Working under four headings, i.e. how we could become more open, more engaged, more converted to Christ and more generous, we were able to set a long list of aims for the next five years.

The plan was summarised in a leaflet produced for the APCM, copies of which are still available in church or from the wardens. Basically, we are looking at developing and increasing the range of our pastoral offering via services, increasing our appeal to those who may not attend church at present, particularly families with young children. At the same time we are anxious to keep our current services and style of worship, which we know is popular with the present congregation. We want to expand our home groups and form a pastoral visiting team. We want to continue to cooperate with other churches and enhance the links with the local schools, and at the other end of the spectrum, to work with care homes in the area. And we want to do our bit for the environment by encouraging 'green' living and nature. With these in mind, the PCC is forming a number of groups, several of which will be seeking input from those outside the PCC.

Importantly, we will need to look at necessary and sympathetic improvement to our buildings to make them fit for wider community involvement, to encourage stewardship and giving from our own congregation as well as seeking help from other charitable and grant-giving bodies, and to tell the wider world what we are doing, and why. Two important outcomes are:

First, that we need to plan for making our historic church building fit for the present century – consultation about which was already under way, allowing our PCC and architect to narrow down the options to a preferred way forward, and,

Second, we need to look at employing a children and families worker, possibly in consultation with other churches, as a fundamental part of our outreach.

At the meeting our wardens gave a brief outline of these plans, and then Christine Aubrey, who has led the consultations on the building improvements, explained the probable way forward for the Church building, the main elements of which are summarised here, although they are still open for consultation.

The first issue to be addressed is accessibility. The main entrance involves a number of steps down from the south porch, difficult for those with limited mobility and impossible for wheelchair users. There is an alternative entrance via the north door, but this is far from welcoming. Our particular building layout does not lend itself to a lift, as in several other churches, so our architect has drawn up plans for improving the north entrance. Obviously, the external path will have to be upgraded, but we need to make the north entrance itself more welcoming, not just as an accessible way in, but for parishioners coming from the east or north of the church. We propose enlarging the door slightly and building a porch, thus providing a welcoming stepless entrance for wheelchairs and pushchairs. The porch would have the additional benefit of reducing the significant draughts felt from the north door, and would provide a location for an accessible WC – something we need anyway. In the original consultations, various options were considered for WCs in the area under the tower, but providing a truly accessible one there would be difficult, and there was also the problem of complicated drainage, as waste would have to be pumped up to the main drains at a higher level. So the current plans suggest an accessible WC in the new North-East porch, while in the South porch, upgrading the present WC which is not really fit for purpose, and adding a second.

As well as the accessible entrance, we have to ensure accessibility to the rest of the



church building. So the small steps in the north side of the building will need to be eliminated, or replaced by gradual ramps, and the passageway between the pews on the north side increased in width. The favoured option here, rather than shortening the pews, would be to replace the short pews in the north aisle with moveable chairs, which would have the additional benefit of providing a clear space that could be used for various purposes.

Another important consideration is that our current boiler room does not meet current fire standards, and would need significant spending to bring it up to scratch. Our architect suggests that for similar cost, a new external boiler house could be built in the NW corner, adjoining the tower. We have looked at replacing the gas boiler with a 'greener' alternative, but heating consultants advise that there should be another 15-20 years life in the existing boiler, and by the time it needs replacement then future, greener, options should be more clear. Moving the boiler from its present location would meet fire precaution regulations and free up useful space under the tower.

This space would allow us to install a small kitchen area with a servery, which would make the serving of refreshments after services or for concerts and other events much more convenient, and, importantly, safer.

In order to benefit from the new servery, creating space at the back of church and to improve the aesthetics on entering the church, the proposal is to remove five of the rearmost pews and relocate the font so it is in line with the south door and the war memorial. Again, moveable chairs can be employed to maintain seating capacity. These would need to be stored somewhere; one possibility is under the tower adjacent to a relocated vestry, and another is to create a new room in the SW corner, where the current electrical cupboard is sited.

These proposals are still up for discussion. Architect's plans and sketches can be found on the Steyning Parish Church website. Although they are somewhat less radical than the 'reordering' that many other churches have undertaken, they will still involve significant expense. We are confident that much of the cost can be met from grants, bearing in mind the historic status and Grade I listing of our church, and that accessibility is key to the plans. But we are embarking on an exciting period of planning, consultation and fund raising, and will be seeking a lot of help.

*The Churchwardens*

# Two sketches from the Architect, Simon Dyson to show proposed changes:



View showing the proposed new accessible entrance to the church, which will include an accessible WC and small lobby space to accommodate buggies and turning space for wheelchairs. New glazed doors provide plenty of daylight to help create a welcoming entrance. Materials could include stone, and a zinc roof which can be used on shallow pitch roofs.



View showing the proposed boiler room at the base of the tower with railings between the boiler space and west window of the south aisle, which is our preferred option.

## TRINITY

**Blessed are those who encourage others, even when they may not deserve it .....words from the "Extra Beatitudes? "**

As we leave the Great Days of the Church calendar behind us, we start off on the long series of "Green" learning Sundays after Trinity. In the "good old days" the second Sunday after Trinity probably had the dullest and most ponderous sermons in the church's year, and on that second Sunday after Trinity I always remember Jim French. This is why.

Most of us clergy used to be ordained on Trinity Sunday. (Nowadays the big Trinity ordinations have been moved to what they call Petertide (St Peter, 29 June). The ordinations are actually in July usually around St Thomas (3 July) but they are still called Petertide or Trinity. *(Please do not pursue this line of thought any further, it carries a health warning for any sane Anglican!)*

If you were ordained on Trinity Sunday it was likely your new (kindly) vicar would tell you to settle in on the next Sunday – read a lesson? – and then preach your first sermon on Trinity 2. So the poor people had to endure the stumbling beginners' efforts all over the country on that Sunday. I remember years ago finding the notes for my first sermon amongst a lot of other rubbish. Not good!

Enter Jim French; he was the senior, long-serving churchwarden in my first parish; he was the treasurer; he was owner/manager of the prosperous local grocery, (remember grocers? They were before supermarkets). He was a great power in the church and community! I was the lowest of the low, the junior of a long series of juniors over the years; and on the Monday after my first sermon I went, all innocent, into the shop to buy something trivial and the assistant said to me, "Mr French would like a word with you in his office."

It was a bit like marching in as the accused to a court martial, without even the support of the traditional "prisoner's friend". What had I said or done? Heresy?

"You wanted to see me Mr French?"

"Ah yes, Brother, I listened to your first sermon yesterday with interest. *(Oh dear)* ..... "I would like to say I thought it was a very promising beginning" he said.

"Thank you very much, Mr French".



Over the years I have found this a most inspiring memory. He didn't say "That was a wonderful sermon"; I would have known it wasn't and he would have known it wasn't true. He didn't say "That wasn't much good"; that would have been no help to either of us. What he said was respectful and encouraging and I have never forgotten it.

That parish was well known and much used over years for training quite a number of the newly ordained. I myself overlapped with at least seven others. Jim French, I came to realise, probably said something equally encouraging to each one of us. The overall benefit to the preaching standard of the C of E must have owed much to that one man and his helpful positive comments. I am sure the Good Lord will have rewarded him according to his works, and we, his succession of junior curates, will rise up and call him blessed.

So ..... May I also quote my own (formidable) Quaker grandmother?

"Thee should never speak unless thee has something good, or necessary, to say."

Or my own personal litany which would include

Blessed Jim French, thank you.

It's quite likely that you have in your memory your own personal Jim/Jemima French. If so; remember; be thankful; imitate.

*Senex*



## FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

**Thank you Everyone** for your thoughtful and generous food and monetary donations which have helped keep our families fed and warm these last months. Life has been and is very challenging for them. All the Family Support Practitioners are alongside each family with their practical and reassuring help.

We are going to have a **COFFEE MORNING** on **Saturday 2 July** in **The Penfold Hall** and, at this event we will be able to tell you about the many things FSW is doing for the families.

More in the July Magazine, in the meantime, please keep the date free:-

**Diary Date for July:**

### **FSW COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday 2 July, The Penfold Hall, 10 am – Noon.**

With our many thanks and best wishes,

*Sue and Wendy*

## SPOTTED IN MAY



## COMMUNITY

### C O F F E

Do come and join us between 10 and 11.30am in the Penfold Hall on a Wednesday morning.

We make real coffee, brew tasty mugs of tea, offer delicious biscuits and of course conversation. All for a donation if you wish to contribute.



### THE PENFOLD HALL.

The doors are open from **10am until 11.30am** every **Wednesday morning**.

*Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team*

## CHURCH FLOWERS



Thank you so much to all those ladies who kindly gave up their Easter Saturday morning and beautifully decorated the Church for the Easter Festival. It is always appreciated. It also heralds in the Spring and welcomes in the brighter days ahead. Thank you also to those who donated towards the lilies

*Carol McKechnie*

## SAINT OF THE MONTH

### JUSTIN THE MARTYR (c100-165)

Justin was born in Samaria to parents of Greek origin and studied philosophy in Ephesus and Alexandria. He became a Christian in about 130 and is recognised as the first Christian philosopher. He held disputations with Jews, pagans and heretics particularly in Rome where he founded a Christian school in 150AD.

His surviving writings comprise two *Apologies* addressed to successive Roman emperors and *The Dialogue with Trypho* which demonstrated that the Eucharist superseded Jewish sacrifices. These are among the earliest papers highlighting the tenets of the Christian faith - the rites of Baptism and the Eucharist and the giving of alms to the poor. Justin attempted to show that loyalty to the Emperor is not contrary to the teachings of Christ and St Paul. He thought that pagans would become Christians if they were made aware of Christian doctrine and practice through articulate writing - hence the *Apologies* and the *Dialogue*.



Justin was arrested during the reign of Marcus Aurelius for preaching Christianity and founding the school. The record of his trial survives which refers to his confessing his Christian beliefs and his refusal to make sacrifice to the Roman gods. He was

sentenced to be beheaded for his beliefs in 165. His Feast Day is 1 June.

As with many early Christians, Justin knew the fate which would probably be his when he wrote in the *Dialogue* -

“God has announced in advance that He has joy in all the sacrifices offered in the name of Jesus that are made in accordance with the precepts of Christ, that is, in the Meal of Thanksgiving of the bread and cup, which is celebrated by Christians in all places throughout the earth.”



## 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, 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:** "Living in Occupied Germany and Other Adventures"  
Given by Peter Firth

**Date:** Tuesday 12 July. **Doors open at 3:45 for 4:00 start**

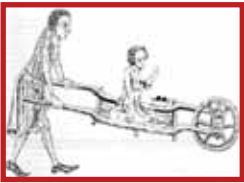
**Where: Penfold Hall**

Please note the change of time to late afternoon in the hope that more men are free to come along then and be among friends and be inspired by our speakers

Any enquiries please to Leonard Warner (01903 812752)

## THE STEYNING SOCIETY

## THE ARTS SOCIETY



**Friday 17 June**  
**7.00pm for 7.30pm at**  
**The Steyning Centre**

**"Smock Alley and Me"**  
**an illustrated talk by Sarah Lavery**

Sarah will describe her journey from working in London's Tidal defences to running a small community vineyard in West Sussex.

One of the surprises along the way was how many of Sarah's civil engineering and flood management skills were transferable to the new enterprise.

Free to members and £3 for guests. Wine or non-alcoholic elderflower is available on entry and monetary donations will be welcomed!

*Please note that this is our last talk until Friday 16 September, when Dr Janet Pennington will present "Shops and Shopping. The Small Shop through the ages"*

**Creating An Imaginary World - Theatre Design From Temple to Playhouse, Into The Picture Frame And Out Again.**

**by Bertie Pearce**  
**Monday 13 June 2022**

Theatre design is one of the world's most beautiful, varied and lively art forms. This lecture looks at the relationship between actor and audience and how this transformed the space and architecture of theatre throughout the ages - from the Greeks to court theatre, the Globe to the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, looking at great architects, practitioners and designers. This lecture aims to bring to life the magical world of theatre.

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, BN44 3XZ

**10:00am - 12:00.**

Free to members, £10 donation for visitors.  
[steyning@theartsociety.org](mailto:steyning@theartsociety.org)  
[www.theartsocietysteyning.org.uk](http://www.theartsocietysteyning.org.uk)

## THANK YOU

Dearest Everyone,

Am writing to thank you all, kind and caring folk, who have prayed for me since my car accident at the end of February.

The answers to your prayers have meant that I have felt loved and supported during all this time. Although not completely healed yet, I am well on the way.

*I will remember and treasure your kindness always – thank you from the bottom of my heart.*

*Christine Lees*

PS You may like to know that as I waited to be rescued - injured and unable to help myself at all, trapped in a car that was sparking, smoking and filled with the acrid smell from the airbags – I never felt alone. Thank you to my Friend, and yours.

PPS If you should ever be in the unfortunate position of needing help, know that our rescue services – firemen, paramedics, police, ambulance – are truly exceptional: talented, caring and reassuring, as are our doctors, surgeons and nurses.

*Thank you to all of them, as well as you, dear friends.*

## ROYAL SUPPORT FOR THE UK'S CHURCH BUILDINGS



Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth has been the Patron of the National Churches Trust since 1953 when the Historic Churches Preservation Trust, its predecessor charity was founded. In that time it has supported over 12,000 churches with grants and loans in excess of £100 million.

To mark Queen Elizabeth's support for its work, the Trust has produced a special Royal Proclamation which thanks her for her patronage.



*On behalf of churches, chapels and meeting houses across the UK, we would like to thank Her Majesty The Queen for being the Royal Patron of the National Churches Trust and the Historic Churches Preservation Trust since 1953. Churches are impressive, exciting, and surprising places. Thank you, Your Majesty, for your support which helps us to keep churches open, thriving, and at the heart of local communities.*

## **BEWARE! AND BE SAFE**

All of us must be aware of possible scams all the time. This is a very sad fact of life that we live with.

There are thought to be three million Ukrainians on the move, and the charity Stop The Traffic now has a huge increase in its work because it is scanning the networks for signs of people trafficking. In the past they have worked with Syrian and Afghani refugee movements and have shown that criminal networks can be set up to exploit a crisis, such as we have now, in a matter of weeks.

As refugee communities start to seek work to look after their families they become more vulnerable to exploitation, sex trafficking, and even organ trafficking.

We welcome the refugee families coming to live in our area, but if you have any concerns, or hear anything that causes you to wonder about their safety please contact one of our church safeguarding officers (names and contact on Page 34). They will listen to you and take everything you say seriously and know exactly what to do.

## **CMS .....TIMES OF CHANGE**

It can feel as if the ground is constantly shifting beneath our feet. Culture and climate, politics and work, church and relationships - all seem to be in states of rapid and continuous change. This can be a disconcerting experience and it is tempting to look back and yearn for times past...To take the road back to where we have been rooted before. To hunker down, and to fold in on ourselves.

But instinctively we know as Christ-followers that such a path is rarely the one to be taken. Rather we are called, as beloved of God, to live with forward momentum, open - hearted, as some small gift to the world. To be people at home in changing circumstances.

How then to live when the ground is constantly shifting beneath our feet?

In the Emmaus story when Jesus walks with the disciples, but they do not recognize Him and they tell him their story of one of loss and anguish, a key moment comes when they declare:

“But we had hoped he was the one to redeem Israel...” Luke 24:21



That phrase, "But we had hoped" conveys so well the pain of enforced and unwelcome change. And its presence in the Gospel story suggests it is an important principle for us to note and speak of discomfort. The non-appearance of whatever we had hoped for is not to be ignored. It needs to be recognized, spoken of and allowed space to be.

When that happens, in trust, a new thing becomes possible.....

In times of great change - even of loss and anguish - our source of stability and life can ultimately only be the risen Lord. Other things bring comfort, of course. Place, people, work and recreation are great gifts and need to be enjoyed and celebrated.....

As tempting as it may be to return to our sources and places of comfort, the Emmaus story suggests that it is the risen Christ alone who can provide us with the stability and momentum for which we yearn.

Unseen he draws alongside each of us. May our prayer - however unknowing - be one of faith.

*Church Mission Society "The Call"*

## IN A GRAIN OF SAND

To see a world in a grain of sand and heaven in a wild flower.....

What do you take for granted? What do you expect?

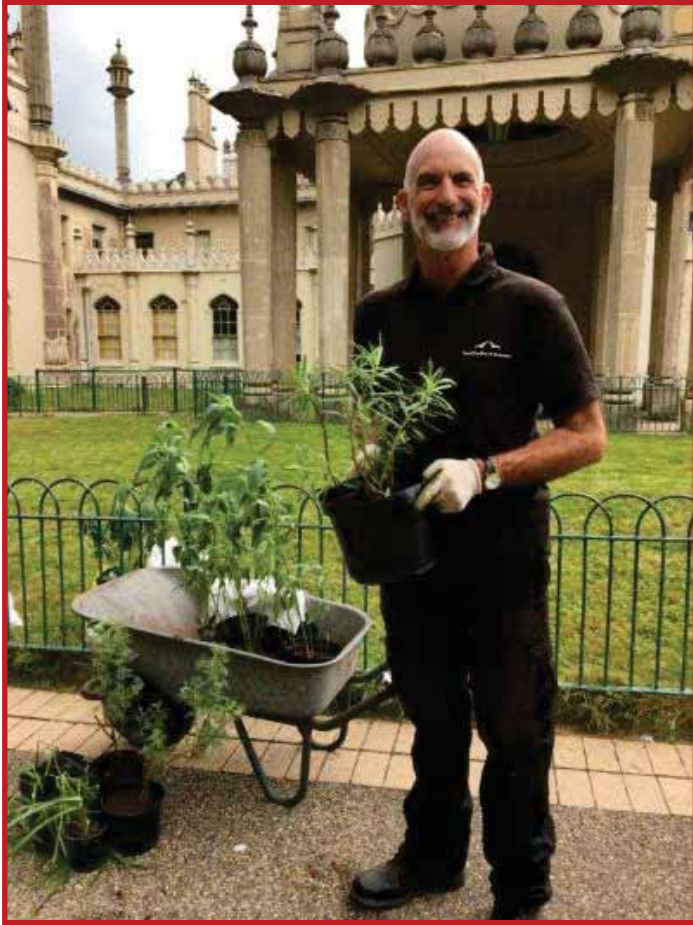
Being able to switch on a light as the evening draws in - clean fresh water "on tap" -and a comfortable bed for a good night's sleep?

Being thankful for everyday things can give us a very positive outlook on life.

Being appreciative of warm sunshine, cooling breezes, the colour of the sky at sunrise and sunset can lead us into seeing our world in a different way. They can lead us to awe and wonder, and to worship God the creator.

*The Methodist Church Newport IoW*

## MANY CONGRATULATIONS ROBERT!!



## Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust

### *Royal Pavilion gardener wins Unsung Hero award*

We're thrilled to announce that our Head Gardener of 25 years Robert Hill-Snook has won Gold in the Unsung Hero category in the Beautiful South Awards 2022.

The judges were impressed by Robert who looked after our

stunning Grade II listed Regency garden through rain and shine, while working with volunteers and being a friendly face to the public every day. Robert retired last year after 25 years and is much missed by everyone.

## STEYNING SAYS

## "SO WELL DESERVED"



## TIP OF THE MONTH

**Do you have any of these food sources in your garden?** A bird feeding station, nectar rich flowers, fruit trees or berry bearing shrubs, some perennials left uncut until spring, vegetable and/or herb patches or pots. All for birds and insects.

Do you put food out for other wildlife in your garden also?



**THE STEYNING FESTIVAL IS HERE NOW!**

**Friday 27 May – Sunday 5 June**

There is a huge number of events – too many to list here – so have a look at

[www.steyningfestival.co.uk](http://www.steyningfestival.co.uk)

for all information to plan and book your tickets for ten days of festival fun.

Here are some events taking place in the church which you might be interested in:

**Saturday 28 May, 4.00pm.**

Our own Brian Sawyer plays a Concert of Organ Music by J.S.Bach

**Sunday 29 May, 8.00pm.**

Words and Pictures. Frank Cottrell Boyce in Conversation with Julia Donaldson

**Monday 30 May, 7.30pm.**

The Chanctonbury Chorus present "Light fantastic", a selection of choral music to bring us out of the darkness.

**Tuesday 31 May, 7.30pm.**

Lethal Secrets: A Crime Writers' Panel with Paula Hawkins, William Shaw and Harriet Tyce

**Wednesday 1 June, 2.00- 5.00pm.**

Gossips in the Graveyard

**Wednesday 1 June, 5.00pm.**

Drawn to Nature: Gilbert White and the Artists – an illustrated talk by Simon Martin, Director of the Pallant House

**Thursday 2 June, 5.00pm.**

Justin Webb – The Gift of Radio. Join well-loved BBC radio presenter Justin Webb as he discusses his candid and moving memoir and life as a broadcaster and journalist.

**Saturday 4 June, 4.00pm.**

Brian Sawyer brings us an Organ Extravaganza!

**Sunday 5 June, 10.30am.**

**Special Ecumenical Service** to thank God for the life and dedication of Her Majesty the Queen on the occasion of her Platinum Jubilee.

Join us in this celebration and then on to the fun of **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Street Party which starts at 12.00 noon.**



## SIMONE WEIL 1909-1943

I re-read a number of biographies of Simone Weil in preparation for this piece. For example, David Anderson portrays her primarily as a mystic, Robert Coles provides a psychological portrait of a disturbing and disturbed figure, and David McLellan's life "Utopian Pessimist" gives an account from the perspective of a political analyst.

Who was she really? As Norman Pittenger said, she went from being a "brilliant student to teacher, from socialist supporter of the French trade-union movement to religious mystic, from factory and farm worker to participant in the French Resistance Movement during the Second World War". All in 34 years.

At first glance, this looks like a bewildering path, but there is a consistency traceable through her life. Brought up in a secular Jewish family, her brilliant mind took her first to the Ecole Nationale Supérieure, where the French elite are trained – as one of the first female students along with Simone de Beauvoir.

She worked as a teacher until she was sacked for political activities, giving up her hopes of a workers' revolution in 1934. Her increasing identification with the unemployed and the poor led her to work first in factories, then in farm labour. She said of her factory work: "That contact with affliction killed my youth... As I worked in the factory, indistinguishable to all eyes, including my own, from the anonymous mass, the affliction of others entered into my flesh and soul". (Waiting on God, p. 33) She could never keep up with the rate of work and suffered from crippling headaches. She also went to Germany in 1932 and already recognized the Nazi threat. She had a short episode fighting on the Republican side in the Spanish Civil War in 1936. She was not cut out to be either a soldier or manual labourer.

By 1938, her deep identification with the suffering of ordinary people had already taken a more explicitly religious turn. That year, she celebrated Holy Week and Easter in Solesmes and underwent a conversion experience ... "the thought of the Passion of Christ entered into my being once and for all". She was also deeply influenced by George Herbert's poem "Love". She learnt and began to recite the



poem. During a recitation, "Christ himself came down and took possession of me." (Waiting on God, pp. 34-5)

Many mystics suffer ill-health and undergo deep suffering, but I cannot help feeling that Weil took this identification with the poor to extremes, even pathological lengths. T.S. Eliot, who admired her writing, called her "a difficult, violent, complex personality" (Quote from a profile by Trevor Beeson). In her writing, she looked and found spiritual wisdom in many places, but not the Hebrew Scriptures – a strange blind spot for someone Jewish.

After the invasion of France, she was determined to work with the French resistance and came to England. Her work "The Need for Roots" was commissioned as a basis for a post-liberation constitution for France, but ignored when the time came. Unfit for active military action, she refused to eat more than the rations available to French people, and contracted TB. She is buried in Ashford, Kent

***For further information:***

*David Anderson, Simone Weil, SCM, London, 1971*

*Robert Coles, Simone Weil: A Modern Pilgrimage, Addison-Wesley, Massachusetts, 1987*

*David McLellan, Utopian Pessimist: The Life and Thought of Simone Weil, Poseidon Press, New York, 1990*

*Simone Weil, Waiting on God, Collins Fontana, London 1959 (An early collection of her religious writing)*

*Roger Williamson*

**Rainbows** **Brownies**

*Girlguiding Coffee Morning*

Saturday 18th June 2022  
10.30am - 12 pm: Beeding Village Hall

Entrance £2 to include Coffee and Biscuit  
Raffle | Tombola | Cakes | Plants

**Guides.** **Trefoil Guild**

## HUMAN ACHIEVEMENTS

*(No.4 in a series of articles)*

### **ELIZABETH GURNEY FRY (1780-1845)**

#### **"The Angel of Prisons"**

Elizabeth Fry (sometimes referred to as Betsy Fry) is remembered as a reformer of prisons, especially concerning the conditions and treatment of female inmates. Her parental background was in banking, Gurney's Bank, now Barclays. When Elizabeth was just seventeen years of age she set up a primary school for children and encouraged supporting sick neighbours. When she turned twenty years of age her social interests extended to helping the homeless, all originating with her Quaker roots. So much so, that she instituted the Brighton District Visiting Society to provide help and comfort by organising volunteers to visit the homes of the poor and to seek accommodation for various types of the dispossessed and homeless. Equally her natural instincts for justice and the relief of poverty ran parallel with the horrors of slavery and how best to get involved with the abolition movements in this inhuman and cruel transatlantic trade.

In 1800 Elizabeth Gurney married Joseph Fry, a member of the famous chocolate confectionery family and he, too, was a Quaker and somewhat ironically, he was also a partner in Gurney's bank. Elizabeth and Joseph had eleven children, the last of which, Samuel, died in 1902.

In the early 1800s Elizabeth Fry took to visiting female prisoners at the notorious Newgate Jail in London. All too often this involved the children of the female prisoners all housed in crowded, dirty, cold and unsanitary dungeons. Disease was rife and prisoner deaths occurred frequently. Fry's mission for better conditions started here. She pressed for female prison guards, separation from the male convicts, reduction and at best cancellation of solitary punishment, pressing for much





less overcrowding – including persuading the prison authorities to permit greater visiting rights. Equally she recommended the authorities give their charges useful employment and adequate provision for religious and secular instruction. These moral crusades also extended to setting up shelters for the homeless in London.

By 1821 Fry had founded the "British Ladies Society for the Promotion of Reformation of Female Prisons". At this time her endeavours reached the ears of Queen Victoria who gave her full support to Fry's social work. In 1825 she turned to writing and publishing what turned out to be a very influential book, entitled "Observations of the siting, superintendence and governance of female prisoners" to provide much advice in operating female penal constitutions.

In 1828 Joseph Fry became bankrupt, yet Elizabeth was still able to carry on her good works, although this now mainly boiled down to those in need.

Elizabeth died in Ramsgate, Kent, on 12 October 1845 and is interred in the Friends Burial Ground in Barking. Even in her lifetime her suggestions were acted upon throughout most of Europe. Memorial plaques and statues of "Betsy" Fry can be found in many places, including Norwich, Scarborough, East Ham and Newham in London and on many Christian memorials.

Elizabeth Gurney Fry is one of three women, apart from our Queen, to appear on a bank of England note and she was one of the social reformers honoured on an issue of UK commemorative stamps in 1976.



The Elizabeth Fry £5 note was in circulation between 2002 and 2016

*Ian and Mary Ivatt,*

*Steyning History Society.*

## ANAGRAM FOR JUNE

The anagram for June is: **CORPUS CHRISTI**

REMEMBER:

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

NO capitalised words and NO plurals.

How many church or religious related words can you find - I was quite surprised!?!

## MORE PLANTS FROM A MONASTERY GARDEN

These plants were known in the Middle Ages and grown in Monasteries and other religious buildings. Many are native to Great Britain and grew wild, others were cultivated for food, medicine, church decoration and other purposes.



### **Thyme (Thymus Vulgaris)**

In May and June Thyme is flowering with scented mauve flowers. A favourite herb for stews in medieval times; it was also planted near hives to attract the bees.

### **Wormwood (Artemisia)**

A plant used in decoration, with silvery aromatic foliage. It is one of the bitter herbs. The dried leaves were scattered in bedrooms and as an insect repellent.

### **Hyssop (Hyssopus officinalis)**

A neat evergreen plant which flowers throughout summer. The sweetly scented plant was used to strew the church floor and infirmary to prevent diseases spreading.

### **Chamomile (Chamaemelum Nobile)**

With its feathery, aromatic foliage, their green daisy flowers give off a fruity scent. The flowers were used in the infirmary to make a sedative tea and to soothe persistent headaches.



## **Some June Tips for the Garden**

1. For masses of fragrant Wallflowers, Sweet Williams and Canterbury Bells next spring and summer start sowing seed now. These plants are biennials which will make leaf this year and flower next.
2. Remove suckers from the base of trees and Roses; they can deplete the plant of energy.
3. Rejuvenate congested clumps of Bearded Iris. After flowering carefully lift and divide the rhizome with a sharp knife and replant.
4. Water newly planted trees and shrubs regularly to prevent a check to growth.
5. Tie up the stems of Sweet-peas to prevent damage to stems.
6. Hand pick annual weeds such as Groundsel or Chickweed before the problem gets out of control.

I hope your June Garden gives you plenty of sensory stimulation as well as peace and relaxation.

*Robert Hill-Snook*

## STAINER'S CRUCIFIXION

It was a great pleasure on 15th April to hold the first Good Friday Sacred Concert since 2019. Due to the high prevalence of Covid-19 back in January, I was very sceptical as to whether it would take place, but as things improved, and with a lot of encouragement from the choir, I decided to go ahead with the concert.

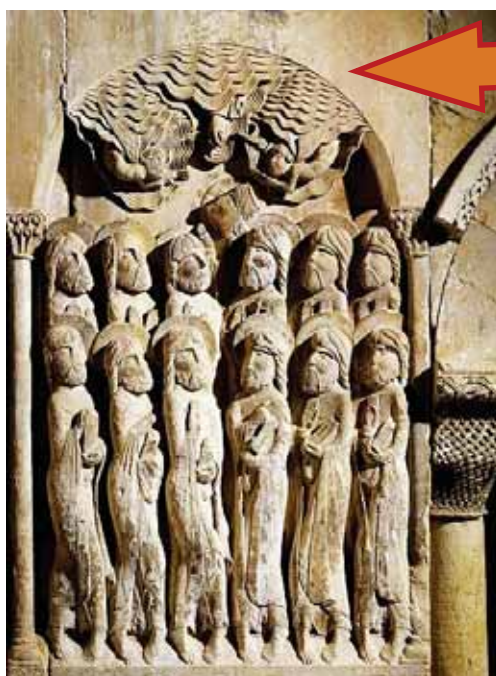
Despite a few Covid casualties a large choir assembled in church on Good Friday to perform John Stainer's Crucifixion, always a very popular and appropriate work. Our own choir was joined by members of the Chanctonbury Chorus and other guest singers. I must thank them all for the excellent performance that followed. We were also extremely fortunate with our excellent soloists, Mark Bradbury, Tenor, Kit Holliday, Baritone and Neil Aiton, Organ, whose contributions to the concert were outstanding.

A significant factor that makes Stainer's Crucifixion such an appealing work is that the congregation participates in the hymns. Finally, therefore, I want to thank all members of our congregation and the wider community, for supporting this concert and also for the generosity of the collection which, after expenses were deducted, enabled a contribution of £330 to be made towards the expenses of the Ukrainian families who are coming to live in Steyning.

*Brian Sawyer*

## FROM THE DIOCESAN LENT COURSE

An enlargement of the Pentecost side of the Ascension and Pentecost Pillar in the cloister of the Monastery of Santa Domingo de Silas, Spain





## QUIET GARDEN AT THE BLUE IDOL QUAKER MEETING

Do you long for some peace and quiet? Some time to yourself? A welcoming space to think and reflect? If you live in Steyning, there's a very good place for this - just 25 minutes away by car. The Blue Idol Quaker Meeting in Coolham, near Billingshurst, is part of the Quiet Garden movement. The beautiful garden there is open to visitors every day and you are welcome to come and enjoy the birdsong and greenery at any time.

In addition, there are hosted Quiet Garden afternoons throughout the summer on the last Wednesday of the month. The afternoon begins with a meditation introduction at 2pm. You are then invited to spend some time experiencing the peace in the Blue Idol garden and are welcome to stay as long as you like. This can be an opportunity to make some space for reflection and contemplation. People of all backgrounds, walks of life and any faith or none are warmly welcomed. The main building, garden and WC are wheelchair accessible, although the garden can be rather soft after rain. Entry is free, but donations are welcome.

The dates for the hosted Quiet Garden afternoons at the Blue Idol Quaker Meeting, Oldhouse Lane, Coolham, RH13 8QP are:

May 25; June 29; July 27; August 31; September 28.

These events are times for quiet contemplation, not for asking about Quakers or the historic Blue Idol Meeting House, started by William Penn and others in 1691. However, every Friday from March to November, the Meeting House is open from 10am -1pm with two Quakers ready to show you round and answer any questions you have! There is also a wonderful exhibition on William Penn and Quakerism in the adjacent barn. You will be very welcome. Group visits are also possible by prior arrangement – contact [admin@blueidol.org](mailto:admin@blueidol.org) or phone 01403-740039. Alternatively, if you're unable to visit the Blue Idol in person at the moment, you can also make a 49 minute virtual visit by following this link:

<https://blueidol.org/virtual-visit>

*“Do you try to set aside times of quiet for openness to the Holy Spirit? All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the divine and to find the inward source of our strength. Seek to know an inward stillness, even amid the activities of daily life.” Society of Friends Advices & Queries, no. 3.*

*Louise Williamson*

## RECIPE FOR JUBILEE JUNE

### HASSLE BACK POTATOES.

Perfect for your Jubilee BBQ celebrations

#### Ingredients

Either baking potatoes or large whites. I personally use baking potatoes. Quantity as you need. I usually do one each.

Olive oil

Salt

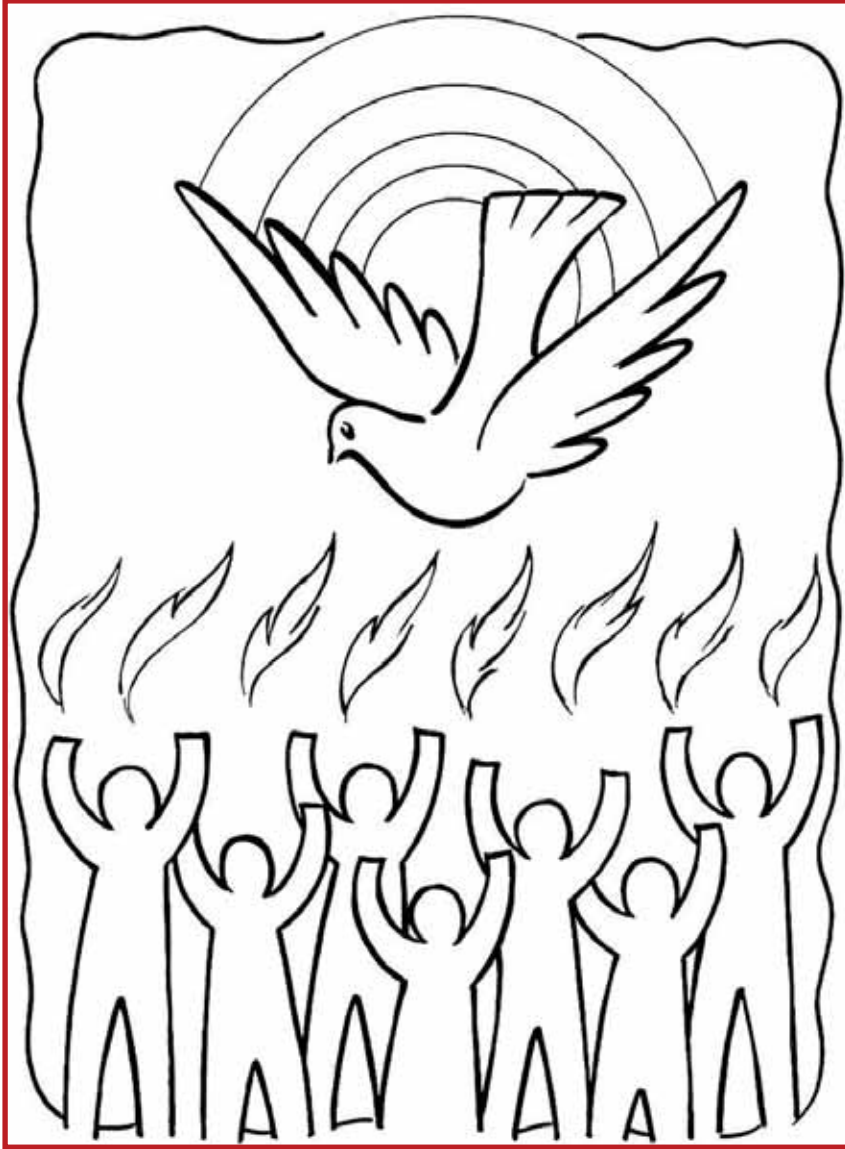
Pepper



#### Method

1. Wash each potato and pat dry and pre heat the oven. OR ensure the BBQ is started.
2. Put the potato on to a serving spoon. Using a sharp serrated knife cut thin slices into the potato down to the spoon edge. Do this all the way along the potato. Do not cut all the way through the potato, it should still be whole.
3. Repeat for each potato.
4. Pop into the microwave for 5 mins
5. Pour a tbsp of olive oil (you may need a touch more depending on size) for each potato into a dish.
6. Roll the potato in the oil, make sure it's really covered. You may wish to use a pastry brush to brush the slices you've made.
7. Generously crack black pepper and salt over each potato.
8. Pop into a hot oven 200 fan and roast until cooked fully and crispy. Alternatively cover in foil and pop in the BBQ coals until cooked.
9. Cover in foil to take on a picnic.

## JUST FOR FAMILIES - PENTECOST



If you have a photocopier do make a copy of this picture of Pentecost for your family to colour in.

OR

Here is the link to download it:

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/pin/17873729746364480/>

The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit, and was thought to bring the Holy Spirit from God onto the disciples. The flames are another symbol of the Holy Spirit and are shown here resting on the disciples so they can go out and tell others about Jesus.

After the first Pentecost, a wonderful man named Paul and some other Christians traveled around, telling people about Jesus and starting the first local churches in the towns they visited.

At Pentecost churches celebrate the Church Birthday.

In some churches, it is traditional to wear red at Pentecost. Red represents the flames that descended on the disciples of Jesus at the first Pentecost.

Questions? Talk together with an adult about these:

What is the name of your church here in Steyning?

Who is the vicar of your church?

Do you know some of the other people who belong to your church?

What do you know about what happens when your church meets together for worship?

A few years ago, as the sun set over the South Downs, I was wandering through a wood on a twilight hike. Through the trees I noticed about a dozen figures decked out in brilliant white gathering in a small clearing. I hit the floor and, buried amongst the bracken, watched as other white figures joined them. Each individual slowly started swaying, swinging hypnotically like a pendulum suspended on an invisible wire. As some of the figures swung fixed to their stations, others oscillated wildly, whirling and crashing into each other. The light was fading fast and as my surroundings dissolved into shadow the swaying white figures seemed luminous against the gloom. Then, as the full moon rose and illuminated the glade, the action slowed, the figures retreated and I was left alone in the gloaming.



The ritual I had witnessed was the dance of the Ghost Moths: elaborate courtship behaviour performed by the males on warm summer evenings across Sussex. That moonlit glade had been temporarily transformed into a miniature moth disco where these incredible insects pirouetted, pranced, and strutted in an attempt to attract a female.

And, like tiny Travoltas, the male Ghost Moths know that to stand out on a crowded dancefloor you need a flashy white suit. Their wings are whiter than white and look as though they have been hand-painted with Tipp-Ex.

The female Ghost Moth has a more subdued wardrobe and wears pale yellow wings with elegant orange swirls. Males also have another trick up their sleeve (or in this case their trouser legs). Their hind legs contain furry

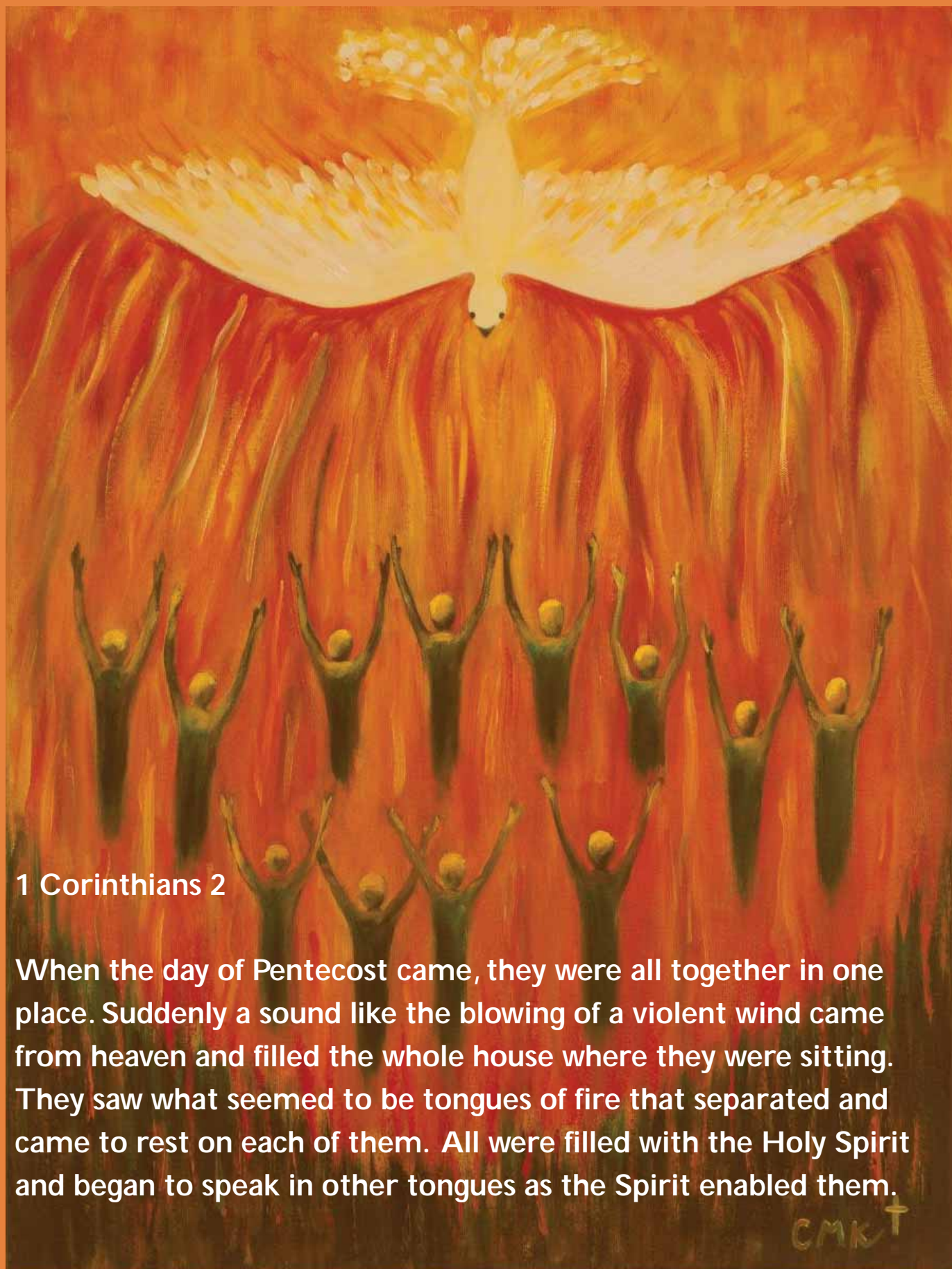


scent-brushes, which release pheromones into the air like an overpowering aphrodisiac. Once the ladies are lured, it's the individual moth's dancing which seals the deal. It can be murder on the dancefloor and scuffles start as the males try to assert their positions. It's a behaviour known as lekking and the dominant dancers will lead a lucky lady out of the lek into the surrounding shadows.

In days gone by the moth's mysterious, ethereal waltz was interpreted as something supernatural and it has been suggested that the dance of the Ghost Moth gave rise to local legends of fairies and Will-O-The-Wisps. If anything, the reality is just as magical and spellbinding to watch.



# PENTECOST



## 1 Corinthians 2

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.