

JULY 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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vicarofsteyning@gmail.com or rectorofashurst@gmail.com

Ordinand in Training: Caroline Armitage MA (Cantab.)

07789 915988

We offer our best wishes and prayers to Caroline as she takes up her new role as Assistant Curate in the parish of West Grinstead after her ordination as deacon by Bishop Ruth on Sunday 3 July

CHURCH SERVICES

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist Family Service with music group on 17 July

6:00pm Evening Service Choral Evensong on 17 July

St James's

10:30am Second Sunday Family Service (10 July)

Fourth Sunday No morning service (24 July)

St James's Patronal Festival. 4pm Sunday, 24 July

Sung Evensong for the Patronal Festival of St James the Great (see pages 5 & 14) followed by 'Beer & Bells' – a chance to try out three church bells with the Steyning Ringers, with a drink of St James's Ale.

Wednesdays at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

11:30am Midweek Eucharist

Parish Office Address:

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Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

PASTORAL LETTER



Dear Friends,
Anglican clergy, we are sometimes told, should avoid speaking about politics. I would be the first to agree that parish clergy need to take care not to show any party-political allegiance. Doing so would be to take unfair advantage of the pulpit, with no opportunity for congregation members to answer back (save heckling, which is not a habit I would want to encourage!)

Historical parsons seem not to be aware of the injunction, however, with many of them freely advising their congregations how to vote in parliamentary elections. And the continued tradition of having bishops speaking and voting in the House of Lords is a hangover from medieval times when the church was very much an integral part of the political establishment.

And bishops, it seems, still have some limited influence. News reports of the recent challenge to our government's controversial policy which is seeking to deport those seeking political asylum to Rwanda, even before their cases have been heard (see pages 20 and 21), usually mention how the Archbishop of Canterbury has openly criticised this policy. Even if you disagree with him, you can't but be aware of this condemnation. (Subsequent reports of private comments from the Prince of Wales seem to indicate that our Archbishop is in distinguished company.)

We can also draw a lesson from the recent pronouncements from the leaders of the Russian church in support of the immoral invasion of Ukraine. Would it be better if they remained neutral? Or should they roundly condemn their President? Revealingly, our own Prime Minister's first reaction to Archbishop Welby's criticism of his Rwanda policy was to slam the Archbishop for not being vociferous in his denunciation of President Putin. In fact, Archbishop Justin had done just that, declaring, with the Archbishop of York, that the invasion was a great moral evil. On pages 22-23 of this magazine, we are reminded of Bishop David Jenkins and his willingness to criticise Margaret Thatcher's government because of the economic impact of the closure of coal mines.

Does Mr Johnson remember that only last year we celebrated the 850th anniversary of the martyrdom of Thomas Becket, executed and then sainted for daring to speak truth unto power?

fr Mark

FROM THE EDITOR:

Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Ukraine and all its people and leaders, and especially families who have found refuge within Steyning and Ashurst including those who worship with us.

Please also remember all 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 beautiful lion pictured on the cover can have many reminders of verses in the Bible, but this month I have chosen the exciting story of Daniel in the Lion's Den.

Do you dare to be a Daniel?

Please continue to send your contributions: steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

PARISH REGISTERS

HOLY BAPTISM (at Ashurst)

12 June Isla Humphreys

NUPTIAL BLESSING (at Steyning)

27 May Henry Cosimo Frederick Yorke & Vanessa On Wei Yen

INTERMENT OF ASHES (at Steyning)

11 April Brendan Joseph Michael Ryan (died 20 March)

17 May Margaret Williams (died 8 August 2019)

FUNERAL (at Worthing Crematorium)

26 May William James (Bill) Hayes (died 4 May 2022)

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 or ring 01903 813276

To add any new prayer requests please contact:

prayers@steyningparishchurch.org or ring 01903 813276

PRAYER DIARY FOR JULY

Sunday 3 July The Third Sunday after Trinity

Monday 4 July Thomas the Apostle

Almighty and eternal God, who, for the firmer foundation of our faith, allowed your holy apostle Thomas to doubt the resurrection of your Son till word and sight convinced him; grant to us, who have not seen, that we may also believe and so confess Christ as our Lord and our God; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 10 July The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 17 July The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Friday 22 July Mary Magdalene

Almighty God, whose Son restored Mary Magdalene to health of mind and body and called her to be a witness to his resurrection: forgive our sins and heal us by your grace, that we may serve you in the power of his risen life; who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 24 July The Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Monday 25 July James the Apostle

Merciful God, whose holy apostle, Saint James, leaving his father and all that he had, was obedient to the calling of your Son Jesus Christ and followed him even to death: help us, forsaking the false attractions of the world, to be ready at all times to answer your call without delay; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.

Sunday 31 July The Seventh Sunday after Trinity

DANIEL

The story of Daniel told in a short book in the Old Testament is very exciting, and it is well worth reading it all rather than just the small part about Daniel in the Lion's Den. Daniel was just a teenager when the story starts.

Life is full of choices, and none more important than those we make when young. Our young people have finished their exams and are perhaps wondering about things such as: "Where will I go to university...or college...or which apprenticeship course will I do?" "Which subjects will I take in the Autumn?" Others have finished at further education and wondering about relationships, career, work, finances or perhaps where to live. Young people have choices to make about smoking or drugs or sex.

At some point I hope all young people have the opportunity to face the important decision.... "Will I follow Jesus?"

The story about Daniel starts with him as a young man who has made the decision to follow and love God, but was forced away from his Jewish family to serve King Nebuchadnezzar, a pagan King. He and his contemporaries get the best education and were immersed in Babylonian culture and history so that after three years they all could take up the top roles in the government and in the hope they all would be happy with the pagan way of life. But Chapter 6 verse 8 tells us "But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine," and had made the choice not to give up his Jewish faith. What a brave young man to keep to the important Kosher laws rather than the pagan laws, and although he could learn in this pagan land he decided he could not sit and eat with everyone because that meant he was the friend of the king. He was risking everything. A wise compromise came for Daniel and three others because Daniel asked that they just had vegetables, cereal and water for their food, and it was found after three weeks that these four young men became very fit, and wise and Daniel could understand and interpret dreams. When it came to the final exams for all the students Daniel and his three friends came top of the class by miles, and were appointed to the top government jobs. God was faithful to Daniel and protected him.

A chorus I learnt when I was young was:

Dare to be a Daniel,	Dare to have a purpose firm!
Dare to stand alone!	Dare to make it known.

For all of us, young and old this story is one of commitment and service, and this is seen as we move on from Daniel's early years to the reasons for his night in the lion's den.

In Chapter 6 we find that Darius is now King and he is contemplating granting Daniel the top position in the land. This brings envy and jealousy, and thus enemies. These enemies plot to form a new law stating that everyone must bow down to King Darius, and only him, knowing full well that Daniel knelt to pray to God every day. The consequence of breaking this law would be to be thrown to the lions.

A fearful time for anyone to come against enemies and their plans, but Daniel kept on praying as was the practice of the Jews. He prayed with thankfulness despite all the troubles. He was arrested and as the new decree stated he was thrown into the den of lions and the stone sealed across the door. Darius liked Daniel and spent the night worrying, and rising early in the morning hurried to the den, and to his astonishment Daniel answered when his name was called. An angel of the Lord had shut the lions' mouths and so Daniel had not been harmed.

The story continues that the God of Daniel is exalted and Darius and many others believe. God uses all kinds of people and situations for His purposes; He also uses choices we make to enable us to gain wisdom, and then that wisdom can lead us to take risks for His sake.

I love this story for many reasons, but perhaps one main one is that it reminds me that, in an even greater act of obedience, Jesus obeyed God's plan to save sinners by dying for us, then rising from the dead so we can receive forgiveness and blessings. Through prayer, through reading the Bible and through listening to and loving each other we can all grow in wisdom and in our love of God.

Chris Fitton

May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you! *Daniel 6 16*

Lord, listen! Lord, forgive! Lord, hear and act! For your sake, my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name." *Daniel 9 19*

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever; wisdom and power are his. He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the discerning. He reveals deep and hidden things; *Daniel 2 20 - 22*

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

Give me the patience to handle big and small decisions in different areas of my life. Fill me with divine strength that I may always follow your leading. May I take the path you are showing me even if it seems long. Lord, slow me down when I rush and teach me how to make decisions calmly.

Father, help me to walk in obedience as I make decisions about my life, family, and career. Let those decisions align with your word. Show me the path you have set for me and how to walk in it. Where I have been walking in disobedience, Father, forgive me. Let your Holy Spirit guide me in everything that I do so that I may not go against your word. Humble my heart so that I may be flexible.

TWO GARDENS OPEN FOR CHILDREN'S CHARITIES

SATURDAY 16 JULY

COME AND SEE WHAT WE HAVE GROWING
HELP RAISE MONEY FOR CHESTNUT TREE HOUSE
AND THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

MORNING GARDEN

10:30 – 12:30

7 GORING ROAD – HOME OF CHRIS & DAVID

Come in, sit with a coffee, tea or Pimms under a gazebo
and chat with friends or meet new people.

Be inspired by the tables of various crafts and cards.

AFTERNOON GARDEN

2:30 – 4:00

33 ROMAN ROAD – HOME OF JILL AND ROGER

Sit with friends in this beautiful garden and enjoy
tea, coffee and delicious homemade cake.

Various plants, cards and produce to buy.

**YOU ARE VERY WELCOME
JUST COME IN**

BLESSED SWITHUN

I don't know about you, but I seem to be haunted by particular months of the year having special characters. Some of them are just personal to the family, others have a wider impact.

September used to be a difficult month; three family birthdays, two wedding anniversaries and the insurance premium due. Real financial care needed, but at least I knew it was coming and had 12 months' notice.

But when it comes to this month now, July, I feel a shiver of fear and anxiety in a wider context. It began years ago as I walked as part of the opening procession in the Cathedral ordination service. We were singing a rousing processional hymn to the tune which I knew belonged to "While we were marching through Georgia"; and I suddenly realised the date – 4 July! How tactless can you get? And I hoped and prayed there were no American revolutionary fanatics in the congregation! There weren't, apparently, and no-one else seemed to have noticed.

It started me thinking what a bloodthirsty month July seems to be. The American war of independence on 4 July; the different dates for the Battle of the Boyne in Ireland variously remembered on 1 July and/or the 12 July – King Billy and all that; and as if that were not enough bloodshed, Bastille Day on 14 July as the reign of Madame Guillotine begins in France. We are only half way through the month and we wonder where it is going to end. It seems so much easier to kill those you disagree with than to talk to them.

But then, thank God, the blessed common sense of 15 July, and good old Bishop Swithun. Whatever you may or may not believe about his story, there was no blood shed in the argument; just rain.

What should we say about argument? Agree with thine adversary quickly ... a soft answer turneth away wrath ... jaw, jaw is better than war, war ... or however you like to phrase it.

Blessed Swithun, pray that we, (and those stupid others!!) may have some sense; and send us seasonal rain, but, please, not so much that the cricket season is washed out!

UPDATE ON THE CHURCH LIGHTING



[d]arc Awards 2022. You may recall an article a few months back in our church magazine, mentioning that our new lighting system had been submitted by our lighting contractor/designer CES Engineering Ltd for an international award, with an organization called **[d]arc Awards 2022**. We were entered in the high budget category competing with multi-million-pound projects. Sadly, we didn't win, however, our entry was shortlisted, which was regarded as quite an achievement.

The 360-degree virtual presentation showing our new interior lighting in low and high light modes, has been enhanced with a background piece of classical music from a recording of 'Adagio' attributed to Albinoni. This presentation is to be found on the church website and will be a good attraction to the many national and international visitors that come to Steyning Parish Church.

Final Note: Approval to progress on the churchyard path lighting is imminent.

Jim Lang, Co-ordinator

PATCHAM SILVER BAND CONCERT

A Summer's Evening with the Patcham Silver Band

Saturday 9 July at 7.30pm

Steyning Parish Church

A Fund-raising concert in aid of our Ukrainian Families

Tickets £5.00 from Christine Aubrey or Steyning Bookshop
Further donations to this deserving cause can be made on the night.

The Patcham Silver Band will fill our church with the most amazing sound. The music will range from light-hearted numbers to more serious ones and include some rousing marches.

Bring your toe-tapping shoes!

CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING



The Christian Aid coffee morning held at the Penfold Hall on Saturday 14 May was very well supported and raised over £624. Thanks to all the posters and other publicity we had lots of visitors, most of whom stayed for coffee and cake. Thank you especially to the many volunteers from all of our churches in Steyning District Churches Together. They worked behind the scenes in the kitchen, and also serving the delicious cakes and coffee and teas. The plant stall was very busy and many beautiful cards were sold as well.



Many thanks also to all who gave donations if they were unable to join us for this worthwhile fund raising event.

Elizabeth Brown



TIP OF THE MONTH

THE IMPORTANCE OF EXERCISE FOR HEALTHY LIVING Parkour For Seniors

Why Parkour? Well, we all need to aspire to something don't we?

No, we are not going to somersault off walls and run across rooftops! But Parkour is simply using the built environment, in this case our adult playground on Fletcher's Croft, as an obstacle course to improve strength and flexibility, balance and spatial awareness.

So, we use those skills of running, jumping, balancing, climbing, stretching, core strengthening and connecting mind and body in order to build confidence mentally and physically. All this enables a sense of freedom and being in control which is very empowering, FUN and the hour-long sessions once a week are free.

If you feel like being inspired and surprised by our maximum group of 15 'recycled teenagers' do come along and watch a session and see what it is possible to do in your 80s!! Most of us have aches and pains of some sort (even a walker) but these are minimised within a very special dynamic of care, support and sharing. 9:30-10:30 on Wednesday mornings and afterwards at The Penfold Hall for a welcome cup of something hot.

Jackie Flowers - Leek

TWO FAMILIES FROM UKRAINE

Our two Ukrainian families have now arrived in Ashurst and Steyning and are settling in well. We have Anastasia and her two young girls who come from Zaporozhie, and Olga and Ilya with their four young boys and granny Tania from Kharkiv. Both families have Russian as their mother tongue as is common on the eastern side of Ukraine but can obviously speak both languages. They have lots of paperwork to complete to enable them to become part of the community, such as registering with the doctor, opening a bank account, getting the older children into school and suchlike. It's a slow process but we are helping them when they need it. We were blessed when some of them came to church the first Sunday after their arrival. They have expressed their huge gratitude to the congregation and the wider community for what has been provided for them so far through the money, so generously donated to their fund, and they are really grateful that people have been so welcoming. They have started English lessons and both families have expressed a desire to be independent as soon possible, seeking work once the children are in education. We welcome them.

Steyning Refugee Help Team

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.

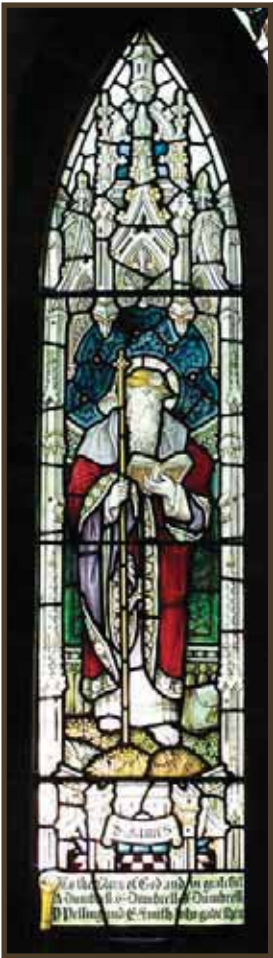


THE PENFOLD HALL.

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

Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team

SAINT OF THE MONTH



St James's Window,
Ashurst

JAMES THE GREAT (MARTYRED AD44)

St James the Great, son of Zebedee, was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus and the first apostle to be martyred according to the New Testament. He is styled "the Great" to distinguish him from the apostle James the Less, with "great" meaning older or taller rather than more important.

James and his brother John were two of the first disciples to join Jesus; Mark's Gospel states that James and John were with their father by the seashore when Jesus called them (4: 21-22). James was one of only three apostles to witness the Transfiguration of Jesus (Mark: 9: 2-8). But James and his brother John were also rebuked by Jesus when they asked Him to grant them seats on his left hand and on his right (Mark: 10: 35-45).

The Acts of the Apostles records that Herod Agrippa believed that it would increase his popularity with the Jews and pagans if he harassed the Christians. It was said that James had a quick temper (he and his brother were nicknamed as "sons of thunder", Mark: 3: 17) and this may have caused his downfall, so far as Herod was concerned, who ordered James to be beheaded (Acts: 12:1-2). The site of the martyrdom is the Armenian Apostolic Cathedral of St James in Jerusalem and it is said that his head is buried under the altar.

According to legend St James preached the Gospel in Spain as well as the Holy Land and that, after his martyrdom, his body was carried by sea to Iberia for burial in Santiago de Compostela which became a great centre of pilgrimage. However, scholars now discount this legend on the ground that in the Epistle to the Romans written after AD 44 (the year of James' death) Paul says that he will avoid building on someone else's foundation (Rom: 15: 20) by visiting Spain which suggests that Paul was not aware of any previous evangelisation of the country.

St James's martyrdom is commemorated by the Church on 25 July.

At St James, Ashurst on Sunday 24 July.

Sung Evensong for the Patronal Festival of St James the Great followed by 'Beer & Bells'

PLATINUM JUBILEE PICNIC IN THE HIGH STREET



The street party followed a joyful Platinum Jubilee Church Service in Steyning Parish Church, organized by Churches Together in this area.

The augmented church choir was joined by the church music group during the worship, and before the sermon some local people explained their memories of the time they met the Queen.

On this day of Pentecost all were reminded that the Queen believes in the guidance of the Holy Spirit for all she says and does.

CHURCH ORGAN RECITAL



The Church was full for both Festival organ recitals given by Brian Sawyer, the organist and musical director at Steyning Parish Church. The screen, provided by David King from Chanctonbury Chorus, enabled the audience to see the organist at work.

CHURCH FLOWERS



A celebration of flowers in red white and blue to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

THE CHURCH SERVICE TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



Choir Anthem

Sir Hubert Parry (1848-1918) composed this setting of verses from Psalm 122 for the Coronation of Edward VII in 1902, revising it for George V's Coronation in 1911. This revised anthem has been used at subsequent coronations and at the Coronation on 2 June 1953, as the Queen entered the west door of Westminster Abbey.

I was glad when they said unto me:
We will go into the house of the Lord.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates : O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is builded as a city:
that is at unity in itself.

O pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
they shall prosper that love thee.

Peace be within thy walls: and plenteousness within thy palaces.

Psalm 122: 1-3, 6, 7; Coverdale Psalter(1535)

An audio recording is available on St Andrew's Church website

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)

FAMILY SUPPORT WORK



IMPORTANT..... Diary Date for July:



FSW COFFEE MORNING

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

Entrance £3.00 to include Coffee and Cake.

At this Event Elaine Waight, FSW Director of Services and Sara Fulker, Senior Family Support Practitioner for our Storrington Deanery will talk to us about how life has been for them and the families they have looked after during these last two difficult years. The Family Practitioners can only do the work they do because of all that you do with your amazing monetary and food donations.

We will be serving Fresh Coffee and Home Made Cake. We will have Elaine and Simon's Card Stalls, a Cake Stall and, of course, a fine Raffle.

Please save the date **Saturday 2 July, 10 am at the Penfold Hall.** Have a very happy morning with us and hear the latest FSW news from Elaine and Sara.

Wendy and Sue

NEWS FROM THE BELL TOWER

I hope that you enjoyed reading the article written by Geoff Goodman about his interest in bell ringing that recently appeared in the Parish Magazine. The last few weeks have been a busy period for Steyning ringers with weddings, and more recently the Platinum Jubilee to mark in traditional style with ringing the bells. In addition, we are sometimes asked to chime the three bells at Ashurst for weddings. Of course, we have also continued to practice on Thursday evenings and ring for morning Service on Sundays.

There was a general call to ringers across the country to sound bells over the Jubilee weekend with a major focus to coincide with the Service held on Friday 3 June in St Paul's Cathedral. We started by going to ring at Upper Beeding as unfortunately at the present time they don't have their own band of ringers. A short break allowed for a cup of coffee before ringing at Steyning with the majority of the band taking part. We are pleased that this included our latest two recruits, Fraser and Chris.



Anyone who is interested in finding out more about bell ringing is welcome to come along on a Thursday evening to see what it is all about. Do contact either David or Geoff so we can be ready for you. Their phone numbers are inside the rear cover of this Church Magazine

David Kirkcaldy

THE HOLY DUSTERS

Help Needed For "THE HOLY DUSTERS"

The Holy Dusters meet every other Saturday morning at 8.30 am in Steyning Parish Church for one hour to clean the silver and brass, and to dust and vacuum the carpets and floors. This very important work is lovingly carried out by a dedicated small band. They do need some extra volunteers and would welcome your help. If you can spare an hour twice a month please contact the Churchwardens (contact details on P30).

With thanks

Wendy Francis

HOSPITALITY IN A HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

'When I needed a neighbour were you there? Were you there?

I was cold, I was lonely, were you there, were you there?'

For generations of children, those simple, direct words with that memorable tune have always cut through - straight to the heart of the matter. And, across Europe, families are opening their homes and hearts to Ukrainian refugees, to women and their children as they flee violence and seek refuge. Churches have been at the forefront of this response, doing what they can – serving food, providing accommodation and transport, coordinating, accompanying, providing practical, emotional and spiritual care.

USPG has been deeply privileged to be a small part of this through its relationship with the Diocese in Europe, whose clergy and congregations have reached out in generosity and compassion over these last few weeks. Many congregations in the Diocese are used to this ministry of hospitality, for they have cared for the physical and spiritual needs of people on the move, especially over the last decade. Like all Christians, that ministry is rooted in the simplest of ideas - a love of neighbour - and the creation of a welcoming, hospitable environment, where people are accepted.

Many of those who are UK based and want to help are discovering more directly the opposite – the hostile environment. Fruit of the bitter, xenophobic seeds that have been sown for years now; seeds of misinformation, distrust and fear-mongering pushed through the media and the quite deliberate creation of a 'hostile' rather than hospitable 'environment' towards refugees and asylum-seekers. An environment in which those arriving on boats are labelled as economic migrants - contrary to all the evidence: The overwhelming majority are asylum seekers. An environment in which fears of the numbers 'flooding in' and 'swamping' an already over-populated island are fed and nurtured; this despite the fact that the UK receives around a third of the number of asylum applications of countries like Germany, France and Spain. It is no surprise that the Home Office is not capable of dealing with the Ukrainian visa situation, and indeed is at the wrong end of a legal challenge. For the system is simply not designed to help, that has been precisely the point. It is as difficult to change the system and processes as it is to change the underlying habits and values.

And so to Rwanda...

I have to confess when I first glimpsed the story I assumed it was a piece of satire in the style of the BBC/HBO drama, *Years and Years*. Offshoring asylum seekers to Rwanda (the most densely populated country in mainland Africa) simply didn't

feature even in my imaginings for what post-Brexit's 'Global Britain' might look like. Reality dawned cutting through my unbelief.

Happily, it is not simply over coffee after church on Sunday that outrage and disbelief have been expressed, as the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishop of Durham and many others have condemned the government's proposals. This callous disregard of traditional British virtues - fair play, hospitality and decency – and the shredding of our reputation as a nation concerned with upholding international law cannot simply be rolled in a banner proclaiming a defence of these isles against the 'threat' posed by asylum seekers. It is a fundamental betrayal of the Christian values upon which our country was built. Unsurprising then that Bishop Paul Butler described the proposal as 'state sponsored trafficking'. He is right.

And then the timing. All this against the backdrop of the largest refugee crisis in Europe for decades. Unsurprising that the government has been highly elusive about whether Ukrainian nationals might end up outsourced to Rwanda. How do you articulate a response that seeks to treat those fleeing the war in Ukraine or escaping the political changes in Hong Kong differently from those fleeing conflict in Afghanistan or Syria? On what grounds are distinctions being made here?

'Being there' for our neighbour is a simple, but compelling idea and reality – whether that neighbour is local or global. That doesn't mean that there are or should be no rules, rather that agreements should be followed, fair and proper process observed; truth told. There are over 84 million displaced people in this world, people forced to flee their homes, and the overwhelming majority are in countries adjacent to conflict zones, like Lebanon. A tiny proportion attempt to seek refuge on these islands of ours. It is time for us to fundamentally rethink our attitudes as a country to refugees and promote a hospitable rather than a hostile environment, to demonstrate to those who seek to represent us that we will no longer tolerate the sheer lack of humanity engrained in our approach to those who would seek refuge with us – those who are strangers, neighbours – and also sisters and brothers under the gaze of a generous God.



By Rev'd Dr Duncan Dormor, USPAG General Secretary

DAVID JENKINS 1925-2016

It is now nearly 40 years since David Jenkins became Bishop of Durham. The event is perhaps most vividly remembered because, shortly after, the roof of York Minster caught fire – and some attributed this to divine retribution for confirming a so-called “unbelieving Bishop” in post. His daughter was fielding phone calls as the Bishop’s press secretary and asked which God the calling journalist believed in, “Thor?”

Jenkins has written about this and the other events of his episcopacy in his memoir: “The Calling of a Cuckoo” – the designation Margaret Thatcher used about the pronouncements of Bishops she did not find in tune with her message. How did he become so notorious and become vilified as the “Barmy Bishop” by the tabloids?

He was an Oxford chaplain and academic when he first came to wider attention after the then Bishop of Woolwich, John Robinson, wrote a book called “Honest to God”, causing controversy. Jenkins then produced a short but learned “Guide to the Debate about God” in 1966. It reviewed what Bultmann, Barth, Brunner, Tillich and Bonhoeffer had to say on the subject.

He worked for a few years in Geneva at the World Council of Churches (WCC) in the late 1960s and early 1970s. His theological work at that time focussed on Christian understandings of what it means to be human, indeed he was Director of the WCC’s Humanum Studies. After that, he worked in Manchester as Director of the William Temple Foundation, a small institute exploring church and society issues. He was already pointing out the trouble British institutions were in by the 1970s, with the strikes and pressures already showing in the NHS.

In 1984, he was working as Professor of Theology and Religious Studies at Leeds University when he got “the letter” from Downing Street calling him to be Bishop of Durham.

The vilification began when he appeared on a TV programme at Easter about how the resurrection was to be understood today. Six months later, on Radio 4, he expressed the view that the resurrection had to be more than “a conjuring trick with bones”, which was misquoted to imply that he thought it was only that, and to

further imply that he did not believe in the resurrection. Readers of “The Calling of a Cuckoo” (see pp. 134 onwards) and his statement of his faith in the debate on doctrine in the Church of England General Synod in 1986 can make up their own minds (pp. 177-84).

Controversy continued to follow him because of his highlighting of the plight of large parts of his Diocese with the decline of the coal industry and his support for mining communities. Building on the theological controversy, the tabloids lambasted him for his social concern. However, most of the letters he received were favourable.



For me, he exhibited three important characteristics on top of the hard work of being a Diocesan Bishop. He tried to talk to people in ordinary, popular language about big theological themes and human concerns. He tried to popularize the work of serious academic theologians and he tried to relate the good news of the gospel to social problems. To do even the last of these, risks incurring the wrath of the tabloids and the government, as this Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has experienced recently when he criticised (rightly in my view) the government’s plan to remove asylum seekers from this country to Rwanda.

Roger Williamson

Further resources

Under the heading “You can’t keep a good God down”, a phrase by Jenkins, there is a fine TV profile of him on his retirement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Yb6wuX81UQ>

David E Jenkins, *God, Jesus and Life in the Spirit*, SCM, London, 1988.

A popular, readable book of Christian believing. For example, he expounds a simplified understanding of the Creed:

“ God is. He is as he is in Jesus. So there is hope.

God is. He is for us. So it is worth it” (see pp.8, 28 ff)

David E Jenkins, *The Calling of a Cuckoo: Not Quite an Autobiography*, Continuum, London, 2002. Mainly a clear account of the controversies of his ten years as Bishop of Durham.

ANAGRAM FOR JULY

The anagram for July is: **REVELATION**

REMEMBER:

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

NO capitalised words and NO plurals.

THE ARTS SOCIETY

Raphael, A God Amongst Painters
by Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe
Monday 11th July 2022

Raphael is one of the most famous names in art history and until the late 19th century to emulate him was the goal of most artists. This lecture asks "what is the magic of Raphael?" It takes a fresh look at Raphael, at the beauty and grace of his work and examines his astonishing ability to grow and transform himself over the years of his career.

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, BN44 3XZ
10:00am - 12:00.

Free to members, £10 donation for visitors.

steyning@theartsociety.org

www.theartsocietysteyning.org.uk

The first two verses of
Daniel Jazz
by Vachel Lindsay

Darius the Mede was a king and a wonder.

His eye was proud, and his voice was thunder.

He kept bad lions in a monstrous den.

He fed up the lions on Christian men.

Daniel was the chief hired man of the land.

He stirred up the music in the palace band.

He whitewashed the cellar. He shovelled in the coal.

And Daniel kept a-praying: —
"Lord save my soul."

Daniel kept a-praying: —
"Lord save my soul."

Daniel kept a-praying: —
"Lord save my soul."

MORE PLANTS FROM A MONASTERY GARDEN

Continuing the theme of Monastic and Religious gardens:

Many saints were recognized in plant names. Chamomile, the herb of humility became known as St Anne's flower.

Samphire was known as St Peter's herb, but he was also linked with the cowslip.

The tiny geranium Herb Robert was attributed to St Robert, founder of the order of Cistercians, who used the plant to treat plague victims.

Clover was associated with St Patrick who used the plant to explain the mysteries of the Trinity to the Irish.

Here are the garden tips for July:

1. Prune June flowering shrubs such as the Philadelphus and Weigelia. Prune deciduous Magnolias if necessary.
2. Remember to dead-head plants in hanging baskets and containers and then feed them with liquid folia feed.
3. Clematis can be propagated by taking internodal cuttings.
4. Autumn flowering bulbs, such as autumn Crocus, Colchicum, Sternbergia, Amaryllis and Nerine can be planted now.
5. Keep using and cutting herbs, such as Chives, Mint, Thyme - this encourages new growth.
6. Cut back Delphiniums and Lupins after the first flush to encourage a second flowering. Feed afterwards.



It has been a wonderful year for Roses. A good annual prune and feed makes all the difference.

Thank God for all the joy the garden gives us.

Robert Hill Snook.

STEYNING WALKING FESTIVAL



STEYNING

WALKING FESTIVAL

2022

Saturday 2nd July to Friday 8th July

For full details of events and tickets go to:
VisitSteyning.co.uk/walking-festival
Email: steyningwalkfest@gmail.com

Events

Saturday 2nd July
Walk & Sketch
Steyning Treasure Trail
"The Race" ~ a talk on the history of the Steyning Easter Walking Races

Sunday 3rd July
Dog Walk
Teddy Bears' Picnic

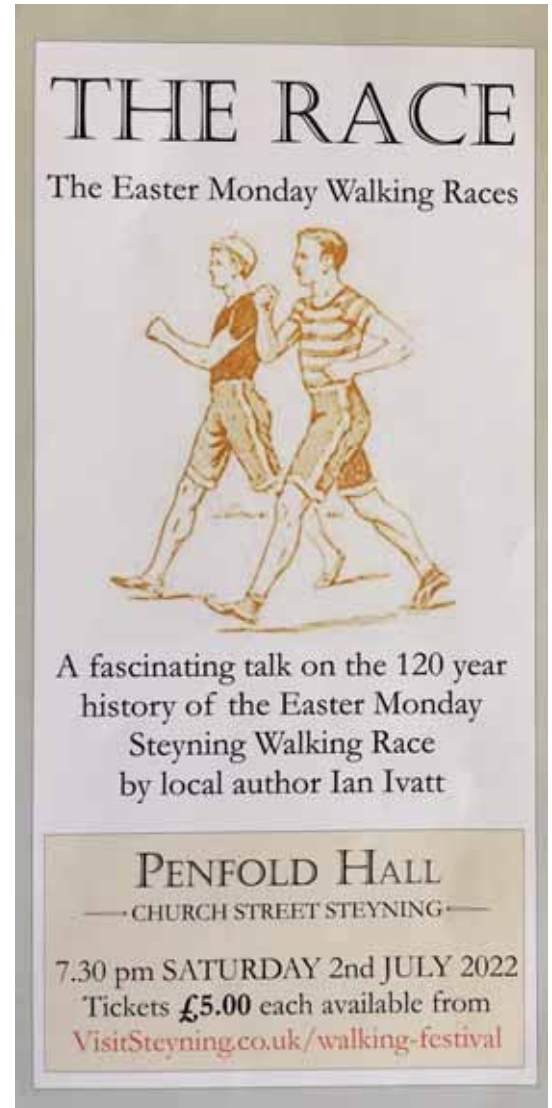
Monday 4th July
Plantation Walk

Tuesday 5th July
Health Walk
A Walk on the Wildside

Wednesday 6th July
Bramber Heritage Walk
Daylands Farm Walk & Cream Tea


Thursday 7th July
Railway Walk

Friday 8th July
"Food with a View"



THE RACE

The Easter Monday Walking Races



A fascinating talk on the 120 year history of the Easter Monday Steyning Walking Race by local author Ian Ivatt

PENFOLD HALL
— CHURCH STREET STEYNING —

7.30 pm SATURDAY 2nd JULY 2022
Tickets £5.00 each available from
VisitSteyning.co.uk/walking-festival

A SHORT DANIEL QUIZ

In chapter 2 whose dream does Daniel interpret?

In that dream, what came out and destroyed the great statue?

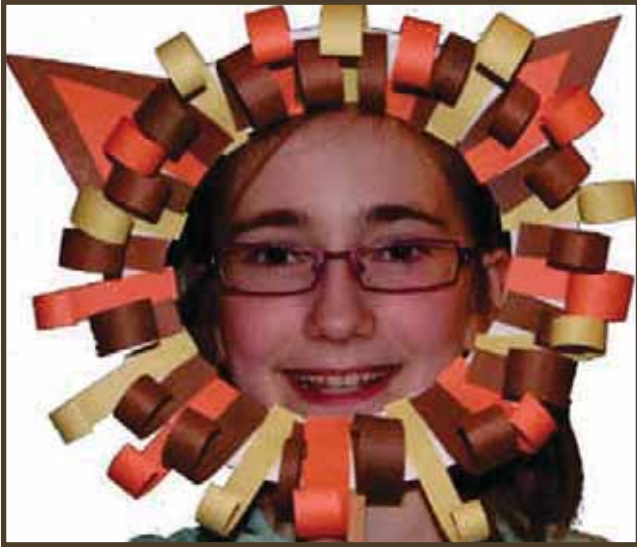
In chapter 1 a different name was given to Daniel. What was it?

Who were the three men who refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image?

Nebuchadnezzar a stone Belshazzar Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

ANSWERS

JUST FOR FAMILIES -



This cute lion mask is a very simple craft for parents to make for children, or for children to make for themselves. It could be used to help engage the children as you tell them the story of Daniel, asking them to roar in the right places.

Materials:

- a paper plate or a circle of cardboard
 - coloured fairly firm paper (brown, yellow and/or orange)
 - pencil,
 - glue,
 - lollypop stick
- a blunt pencil

Instructions:

- Cut rectangles out of the coloured paper. I make them about 10cm long and 3cm wide.
- You and the children can decorate the rectangles with markers or sparkles to make the craft a bit more complicated.
- An adult should cut the centre out of the paper plate so the child's head becomes the centre of the mask.
- Roll one of the rectangles of construction paper around a pencil to make it curly.
- Glue the curled rectangles all the way around the edge - I alternated the colours making a pattern.
- Cut a couple of triangles for the ears out of one of the coloured papers.
- Glue on the lollypop stick as a handle (you might want to add a piece of Sellotape to reinforce).

Now the child can peek through the hole and become a lion.

RECIPE FOR JULY

CHOCOLATE COOKIES

Having tried lots of different versions of chocolate cookies, my family have voted this their favourite!

Ingredients

- 150g butter, melted
- 150g sugar
- 1 medium free-range egg
- 1 tsp vanilla bean paste
- 200g plain flour
- 25g cornflour
- ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
- 200g chocolate chips or chocolate bar broken up (this is my preference)



Method

- Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6. In a mixing bowl, beat the butter and sugar with an electric mixer for 2-3 minutes, then add the egg and vanilla bean paste and beat again until combined. Add the flour, cornflour and bicarbonate of soda, then mix again until just combined. Gently fold in the chocolate.
- Use an ice cream scoop to scoop the cookie dough mixture into balls placing them directly onto the lined baking sheets. I usually have 10-12 cookies but you can make them smaller. Try to space them out as much as possible.
- Bake the cookies for 10-12 minutes until the edges look crisp and the centre is still a bit squidgy when you press it. Leave to cool on the trays, then store in an airtight container.

I think your family are very lucky to be the taste testers for these Yummy cookies!!

Recently I've spent a lot of time on the beautiful West Sussex heaths, where I've been lucky to encounter an animal which always gets my heart beating as it speeds past: the Hobby. Around about now, high in a twiggy tree-top nest, two eggs will be laid. The proud parents have flown all the way from the Congo Basin to raise their family in the Sussex countryside.



Hobbies look debonair and dashing. With their black 'eye mask' and drooping 'moustache' there's a touch of Zorro about them. And, like that enigmatic swordsman, Hobbies are famed for their speed and dexterity. Superficially the Hobby looks similar to the Peregrine, which along with the Kestrel makes up the trio of falcons that breed in Sussex. But

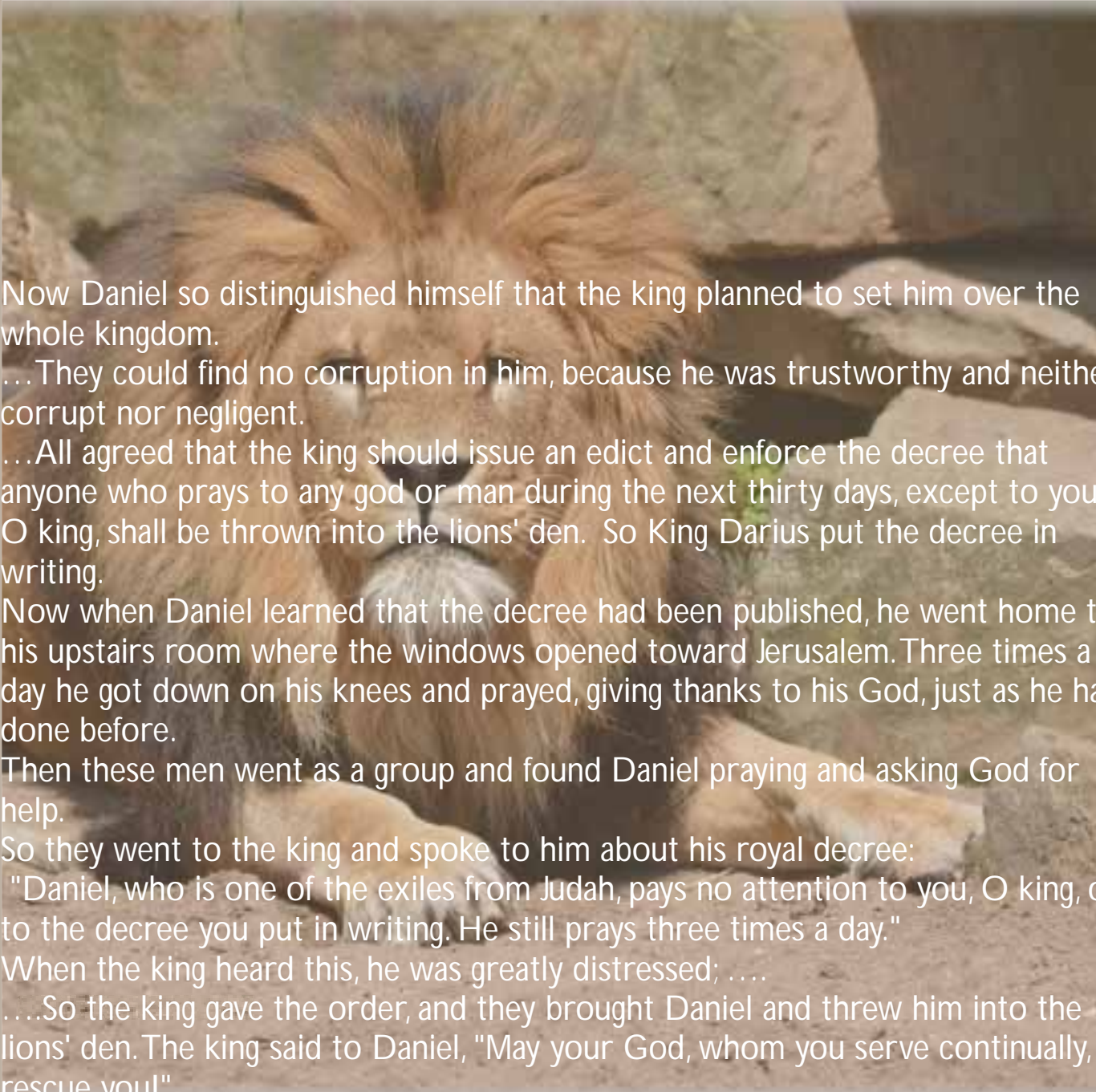
Peregrines are very different birds. They started raising their families way back in April and adult Peregrines are up to four times heavier than a Hobby. Peregrines hunt by putting their weight behind their attack, whereas Hobbies use aerial agility and acceleration; the ninja to the Peregrine's sumo. The Hobby's slender scimitar wings slice the air as they twist, turn and tumble to pluck their victims from the sky in their talons.

These victims are the reason for the Hobby's 4,000 mile journey from Africa, and for their late egg-laying. The birth of the hungry Hobby chicks is perfectly synchronised with their food supply, which is most abundant in Sussex skies in July and August. Hobbies specialise in catching the uncatchable; swallows, martins, swifts and dragonflies - all accomplished aviators themselves, who probably thought they were invincible whilst airborne. Watching a Hobby hunting is watching an accomplished predator at work.

If you've been on a wildlife walk with me you've probably already heard my favourite piece of Hobby trivia. In 1946 Mr Adolph of Langton Green, Kent had an idea. Presumably, with a name like that, the preceding seven years had been a tough time for Mr Adolph, but now he was free to unleash his incredible invention upon the world: a game which involved flicking wobbly model footballers up and down a tabletop. This game, he insisted, would be a great hobby for boys and he named his invention just that: 'Hobby'. But when it came to registering the name, the Patents Office said that 'Hobby' was too general a term. Instead, Mr Adolph took the scientific name from his favourite falcon. And so the agile Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) became forever linked to wet Saturday afternoons flicking headless Crystal Palace midfielders around the dining room.

Michael Blencowe

DANIEL IN THE LION'S DEN



Now Daniel so distinguished himself that the king planned to set him over the whole kingdom.

...They could find no corruption in him, because he was trustworthy and neither corrupt nor negligent.

...All agreed that the king should issue an edict and enforce the decree that anyone who prays to any god or man during the next thirty days, except to you, O king, shall be thrown into the lions' den. So King Darius put the decree in writing.

Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before.

Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help.

So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree:

"Daniel, who is one of the exiles from Judah, pays no attention to you, O king, or to the decree you put in writing. He still prays three times a day."

When the king heard this, he was greatly distressed; ...

...So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed.

Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den.

When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

Daniel answered, "O king, live forever!"

From Daniel chapter 6