

FREE

AUGUST 2022



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

CHURCH SERVICES

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist (21 August with Holy Baptism)

6:00pm Evening Service (7 August Reflections Service. See poster page 4)

St James's

10:30am Second Sunday Family Service with Holy Baptism (14 August)

Fourth Sunday 1662 Holy Communion (28 August)

Wednesdays at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

11:30am Midweek Eucharist

Both the choir and the music group will be on holiday during August.

No Choral Evensong this month

Parish Office Address:

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Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

PASTORAL LETTER



Dear Friends,

If you look up the word 'pastoral' in a dictionary, you're likely to be offered two definitions. The word can be used to describe land used for the grazing of farm animals, whether practically or in an idealised and artistic way (Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony, for example). Or the word can be used to describe the care of others, either someone's overall well-being or their religious and spiritual needs. The connection between these two definitions is Jesus, for the simple reason that, in Latin, the word 'pastor' means herdsman or shepherd, indeed anyone who cares for a flock and ensures that they have somewhere (a 'pasture') in which they can feed: *'I am the good shepherd. I know my sheep, and they know me.'* (John 10:14)

Because the word 'Pastor' (capital P) can be used to describe the leader in a Christian congregation, it might be assumed that only ordained or trained people carry out pastoral care in the church, but that's far from the case. Although Bishops and priests have particular formal responsibilities, through the Holy Spirit, pastoral care can be carried out by any member of the church. You might be able to think of a time when you had a supportive pastoral conversation with a priest, perhaps about a funeral or other specific need, but you'll probably find it even easier to think of times that you've received help from a sympathetic friend, whether that was a listening ear or more practical help.

Whilst you might agree with me that the congregations in our two churches are especially loving and caring, you might be reluctant to think of yourself as someone who has offered such pastoral care to someone else, but you might well have done, or you might find that opportunity in future. I am sure it's also true to say that there is scope to increase the confidence of members of our churches in their care for one another. For this reason we are offering the event described on page 10 of this magazine, led principally by a former Chaplain at our local hospices. This event takes place as part of Steyning PCC's five-year plan, and is open to members of either of our churches. This afternoon workshop will run on two separate days but the content is the same so participants only need to sign up for one session. If you're not sure whether this is for you but are interested, feel free to speak to me, to Judie Thomson (810392) or to Chris Fitton (816946).

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.

How well do you remember your Old Testament stories? This "Green Time" in the Church calendar is a good time to revisit and reflect on some of them, and maybe read some Old Testament books that we might pass by because other things take over. This month the picture is from Pinterest and is entitled Jacob's Ladder.

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

PARISH REGISTERS



Baptisms

3 July Austin Gray Bryer
17 July Alfie Josef Albon

Marriage

16 July Matthew Jason
Foster & Alison Ruth Gill

Funerals

1 July Alastair Graham McKechnie (died 13 June)
5 July Rose May Flynn (died 9 June) *at St Botolph's church*
7 July Alastair Ian ('Al') Turner (died 19 June)
15 July Richard Neve Grantham ('Rick') Knowles (died 12 June)

SUNDAY BULLETIN

The weekly Sunday bulletin sent from the Parish Office gives all the information about services, news and events.

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 AUGUST

Saturday 6 August

The Transfiguration of our Lord

Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 7 August

The Eighth Sunday after Trinity

Sunday 14 August

The Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Monday 15 August

The Blessed Virgin Mary

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom; 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 21 August

The Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Wednesday 24 August

Bartholomew the Apostle

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your word: grant that your Church may love that word which he believed and may faithfully preach and receive the same; 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 28 August

The Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

The next monthly reflective, meditative and mindful gathering will be at 6pm on Sunday 7 August, taking the theme of 'Resting in God'. Please join us for about 40 minutes of readings (Bible and secular), music and silence.

JACOB'S LADDER

The back page has the story of Jacob's dream, but to make sense of it all we need to know what went before that night out in the open air.

Jacob and Esau were twin brothers, but their parents had their favourites - Dad, Isaac, always favoured Esau, the eldest twin, and Mum, Rebekah, had Jacob as her favourite. At the time of this story Isaac was an old man and blind, and so, with the help of his mother, Jacob managed to trick Isaac into giving him the blessing that traditionally was due to the eldest son. Once given, this blessing could not be retracted. Old Isaac was distraught when he realised what he had done. Of course Esau felt cheated and angry and consoled himself by plotting to kill his trickster of a brother. Jacob's ever loving mother, Rebekah, then helps Jacob to leave home at Beersheba go to her brother, Laban, to marry one of his daughters and to give Esau time to cool down. All sorts of plots and intrigues are going on because Laban plans to exploit Jacob once he is there and use him as a lowly labourer.

Jacob's journey ahead of him is about 550 miles, so no small endeavour, and this story of his dream is set in a lonely place on a dark night as he replaces the comfort of his parent's home with just a rock to rest his head on. He is literally between a rock and a hard place as back in Beersheba Esau wants to kill him, and ahead his uncle Laban waits to use him as free hard labour.

Jacob has run away, and the temptation to run away when life gets a bit tough can be strong. We want to leave our "stuff" behind. But things change for him because Jacob has stopped for the night in what we might call a thin place.

And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood beside him, and said: "I am the Lord..."

Genesis 28:13-15



A thin place is a place where it seems heaven and earth come closer. There is a Celtic saying: "Heaven and earth are only three feet apart, but in some places the distance is even shorter." It is a place where we encounter God in a transforming way, and it can be anywhere. For me a special thin place is one part of The Bostal crossing when it is solitary and I can be completely alone with the expanse of the landscape. In the Bible God often makes himself known in the middle of the night (to the shepherds; to Samuel; to Jacob) or perhaps in a lonely place (to Moses). When Jacob awoke from his dream he realised he was in a sacred space.

Do you dream? Do you remember your dreams? Do you keep a diary of your dreams? My answers are Yes, No, No. Your answers will be different, but it is important to know that dreams are human experiences, and there are different theories out there about dreams, but it is generally accepted that dreams are triggered by something - even cheese or pizza! Dreams can also be seen as spiritual experiences, and there are many examples of dreams in the Bible, in both the Old and New Testaments. In our story God gave Jacob a beautiful dream showing how linked heaven and earth are, and how the angels work really hard carrying out God's wishes. I love the different angels in the picture on the front - they are not the perfect pristine one so often seen in paintings! I think these angels were answering prayers, giving guidance and protection and certainly doing battle with evil. Much the same today.

Not only did Jacob see angels, he also saw God at the top of the ladder, and God spoke to him with reassuring and loving words and a promise that is for Jacob and for us today:

*I am with you and will watch over
you wherever you go.*

Genesis 28:15

The gap between man and God is not so huge because the gap between heaven and earth is just the small ladder of God's grace for us all.

When I am stuck between a rock and a hard place I need to remember that. Jesus promised it time and again to us all

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 have lost their loved 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

We are moulded, each one of us,
in the image of God,
and within our souls there is a finger-
print none can erase.
We pray for those who have no regard
for anyone but self,
who put no value on human life.
For nations and individuals who abuse
and kill.
We are not called to be judge or jury,
but we are called to be agents of
change,

and if the butterfly that flaps its wings
should be our attitude to others
then so be it, Lord,
and may the hurricane this generates
somewhere within the world
reach into the hearts and souls of those
for whom we pray, and reveal to them
how precious are those
for whom they have no love,
and how precious are they
who now bring tears to the eyes of
God.

PEACE IN THE MIDST OF WAR

In June Fr Richard Rohr wrote this:

“In the midst of war Francis of Assisi and Sultan Malik al-Kamil found common ground in their encounter outside the besieged city of Damietta, Egypt, in 1219. By that time the Crusades had been fought for more than a century. Christians had seized Jerusalem from the Muslims in 1099 but suffered a devastating blow when the great warrior Saladin took it back eighty-eight years later. In the decades that followed, the popes launched one failed military venture after another to win back territory in the Holy Land. . . .

[Francis] tried, in his own way to stop this cycle of violence. . . .

A probing look at the early documents concerning Francis reveals that the quest for peace, a peace encompassing both the end of war and the larger spiritual transformation of society, was at the core of Francis’s ministry and thus at the heart of his mission to the sultan’s court.”

Paul Moses, The Saint and the Sultan: The Crusades, Islam, and Francis of Assisi’s Mission of Peace (New York: Doubleday Religion, 2009), 2–3, 4.

Unfortunately, history tells us that fighting continued, and Francis returned to Assisi a very discouraged man. Yet his warnings to his followers are apt for peacemakers and those working for justice in our day:

“As you announce peace with your mouth, make sure that greater peace is in your hearts. Let no one be provoked to anger or scandal through you, but may everyone be drawn to peace, kindness, and harmony through your gentleness. For we have been called to this: to heal the wounded, bind up the broken, and recall the erring.”

The Legend of the Three Companions, chap. 14, in Francis of Assisi: Early Documents, vol. 2, The Founder (New York: New City Press, 2000), 102.

Feuds and vendettas were so common in Francis’s day that few people went abroad unarmed. Yet Francis forbade his followers to fight, carry weapons, or even swear allegiance to any noble. His teaching and ministry were based on Jesus’ teaching from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:9, which says, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

Fr Richard Rohr

"NO HANDS BUT YOURS"



How do we show people that we care?

What should we say when....?

How can we respond in the face of suffering?

How should we pray with others?

What might we need to be aware of when we spend time with others?

How do we look after ourselves as we support others?

An introductory half - day workshop to explore the Church's understanding of pastoral care and what role you might play within it.

The workshop will provide a safe environment to understand better the importance of empathy, listening, silence, prayer and engaging in sensitive situations.

Led by: Revd Steve Gurr

(currently Chaplain HMP Ford, formerly Chaplain St Barnabas and Chestnut Tree Hospices)

*1 September in the afternoon in the Penfold Hall
13 September in the afternoon, venue to be advised*

Refreshments available

Both sessions will be the same as numbers are limited and we do hope many will be interested.

For more details and to book a place please email judie.thomson@outlook.com or phone 01903 810392 or ring the Parish Office on 01903 813276

REMEMBERING 15 AUGUST

I seem to remember the ancient Greek philosophers had two pithy sayings or advice about how to live a good life; two sayings, four words for life! I have to use an extra word to put it into English; "Know thyself" and "Nothing too much". But even with the extra word they remain a marvellous distillation of good sense. Even St. Paul would probably agree, though he needed eight words to say "Let your moderation be known unto all men". But then Paul, like Archbishop Cranmer and professional politicians, was never one for using one word where several would do. These are the days of "Social Media" when everybody seems to want to put every bit of personal trivia out for endless, usually uninformed, public discussion and appraisal, whether it be holiday trips, neighbour disagreements, the calorie values of children's lunch boxes or any other hobby horse that would surely be better kept securely stabled.



A while ago I saddled this horse of mine, because in the middle of August there falls a day in the calendar which has produced reactions from otherwise very respectable Christian souls which are markedly immoderate and totally unhelpful. I cannot be the only holiday maker in France who has had to explain to "non-religious" compatriots why everything shuts down on the 15 August; (though perhaps it doesn't nowadays). It is of

course the Festival of the Assumption of Mary. The various titles of this day in various religious Calendars will illustrate what I mean, as they illustrate the extremes – or otherwise – to which ordinary beliefs can stretch.

The "old" Prayer Book (1662) lists five Festival Days in the year for the Blessed Virgin Mary ranging from February to December, but although all the other saints are commemorated on the (supposed) date of their deaths, that of Mary (15 August) is left blank. The compilers were obviously very wary of being caught up in the wilder extravagancies of legend around her, verging on, or beyond, superstition.

Lest you think I exaggerate, I recall a cartoon which depicted the scene at Immigration Control by the Pearly Gates, staffed by Our Saviour and St. Peter; very

few were being admitted, and a large trail of woe-begone rejects was shown moving sorrowfully round the corner signed "Failures"but lo! there appears Blessed Mary, holding open the back door for everyone, "please come in this easier way"! It may seem ridiculous to us, but it is not fanciful. The Lord's Mother became a very fertile source of wild imaginations and beliefs. The Prayer Book did well to be wary.

Later suggestions for the Calendar, official and unofficial, have offered other titles for the Day. Our own modern version simply puts The Blessed Virgin Mary and leaves the readers to make what we like of it; this is prudence, or cowardice, take your pick.

Others have suggested: "The Falling Asleep" (dormition if you want to be pseudo-Latin), which though scriptural seems to me vaguely insulting; the Bodily Assumption, (reserved for Elijah and Enoch) loaded with unhappy clouds of theological dispute and violence; or, my own favourite, "Lady Day in Harvest", which seems to be capable of many a meaning without forcing violent definition on anyone. ...which is the glory of the C of E! As a neighbouring vicar once said to me, I probably disagree with everything you say or believe, except that we both express our beliefs "subject to the mind of Christ our Saviour" who will probably tell both of us what fools we are!

In the end, on 15 August I would pause to remember with gratitude those who have been called by God and obeyed without any demur or conditions; and to hope that more might avoid the temptation to think I know better.

Senex

Prayer for Serenity

O God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change,
courage to change the things I can and wisdom to know the difference;
living one day at a time, enjoying one moment at a time;
accepting hardships as a pathway to peace;
taking, as Jesus did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;
trusting that You will make all things right if I surrender to Your will;
so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You for-
ever in the next.

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: Paul Hannam will give a talk, the title to be decided.

Date: Tuesday 27 September. **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)



TIP OF THE MONTH

Now the weather is more settled try to walk and/or cycle more. Consider car sharing outside your household, when possible; it's also more fun!!

And when you have time enjoy a bus or train ride as a joyful day out.

Roses in the garden at
St Mary's, Bramber



CREATION CARE

When did you last do the check list to see if you have made progress? Let the Editor know if you have and we will celebrate.

Jackie and Gavin Flowers - Leek have now made GOLD in the Households section.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

SAINT OF THE MONTH



Oswald crowned as a king from a 13th-century manuscript

OSWALD, KING OF NORTHUMBRIA, MARTYR (604-642)

Oswald was born in 604, the son of Ethelfrith, King of Northumbria. When Ethelfrith died the throne was seized by the rival king, Edwin, and, for safety, Oswald and his brothers had to flee to Scotland. Whilst living in exile Oswald was converted to Christianity by the monks of St Columba and he spent some time at the monastery on Iona.

When Edwin died in 633 Oswald returned to Northumbria to claim the crown but was forced to fight the British king, Cadwalla, in order to establish his kingdom. Before the battle Oswald had set up a wooden cross, assembled his army around it and prayed for victory. In the battle at Hexham Cadwalla was killed and his army defeated.

Oswald assumed the throne and at once sent for a bishop from Iona to preach the Gospel to his people. Bede in his *Ecclesiastical History* reports how a "severe" bishop was sent who had little success in converting the "barbarous and obstinate people". He was replaced by the monk Aidan who went from place to place in the kingdom preaching the Gospel accompanied by Oswald who acted as interpreter. Aidan was very successful and many Northumbrians were baptised as Christians.

Oswald gave Aidan the island of Lindisfarne on which to build a monastery and this also became the episcopal seat. Oswald united both parts of Northumbria under his rule and Christianity became the established religion. However, after only eight years Oswald was killed by the pagan Penda of Mercia at the age of thirty-eight praying with his last breath for the soul of his bodyguard who was slaughtered with him.

Penda ordered his body to be mutilated, the head, arms and hands being hung up on stakes. After being so exhibited for some time, the head was buried at Lindisfarne but, like St Cuthbert's body, was taken to various places for veneration and was found in the Cuthbert vault at Durham Cathedral when the tomb was

opened in 1827.

His feast on 5th August was kept from earliest times in most monastic calendars.

Oswald is remembered as a Christian king; for his bravery and military skill, his generosity and piety and his death for the Faith.



A 12th-century painting of St Oswald in Durham Cathedral



FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

FSW Coffee Morning

As we go to press we have just had the amazing Coffee Morning with guest speakers, Elaine and Sara, from FSW. With our superb card and cake makers, a great team of helpers and the very generous spending from yourselves, the amount raised is over £530.

Simply, **thank you everyone.** Look for the full report in the September Magazine.

Sue and Wendy

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

PRAYER POINTS FOR AUGUST

Across the UK schools, colleges and universities have begun the holiday month. Many people and families will go away on holiday. The travel industry is struggling in many ways. Think of the compass points, N, S, E, W. and take a country at each point, eg Norway for North, and pray for that country.

Holiday times can also be difficult times for families. There are many groups and charities who work very hard with families and young people at this time giving them the support, food and fun they need. FSW is one.

Our Church has a five year plan and there are many people working on different parts of that plan so they can begin to develop various aspects of the Church life.

This month keep Roman Road in your thoughts and prayers.



MESSAGE FROM BISHOP MARTIN

2025 marks the 950th anniversary of diocesan mission on the Chichester site. It also marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

At a Presidential address to the May Diocesan Synod, Bishop Martin outlined plans for a year by year build up to a very special year in 2025 beginning in 2023 with a Year focusing on the Old Testament.

This means that there have been 950 years of Christian mission into this Diocese with Chichester as its mother church.

Also it is a celebration of 1700 years of the Council of Nicaea – a very formative council within Christian mission.

As a build up to this, next year 2023, the theme is The Year of the Old Testament

2024 will be The Year of The New Testament

2025 will be The Year of Faith



BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month is this October and the Cathedral will be hosting a celebration service on the morning of **Saturday 8 October**.

During black History Month in October Bishop Will wants to explore what it means to belong:

“What it means to belong to our families or our friends; what does it mean to belong to our country or our world, knowing that we are all linked to one another.

In our Christian faith we understand that we belong to God. God created each of us and knows us and loves us. We are also told that we belong to one another, to each other human being made in God’s image. We belong to one another, but what does that means to each of us?

Another way we find it described in the Bible is that we are all part of the same body. Now in a healthy body all those parts need to work in unison to make the whole operate. What’s more, it reflects the need for there to be diversity. It would be hopeless if all the parts of the body were just hands or feet or eyes. We all have a different part to play.

So during this month of October we are going to reflect with some sadness of the times, the many times, we have failed to keep this view of our world and of each of us who are made in Gods’ image within it. The times when we have failed to respect and honour that diversity. Let us look again at how we can break down old barriers and realise more deeply the love that God sees for each of us,

I do hope you will join us in reflecting and deepening our knowledge of how we belong to God and to one another.”

Bishop Will

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL FLOWER FESTIVAL



All pictures thanks to Fiona Aiton.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS COME TO STEYNING

Bring the family, have fun, and explore the town's unique history on **Saturday and Sunday, 17 and 18 September 2022**

Free events: Heritage tours, exhibitions, talks and organ recitals

Steyning will be taking part in the national Heritage Open Days scheme, England's largest festival of history and culture, on Saturday and Sunday, 17 and 18 September 2022. This is the first time that the town is taking part in this national scheme, and events will also feature as part of the celebrated Steyning Food & Drink Festival.

Events are open to all ages and are free of charge (donations will be welcome).



The Friends of
Steyning
Parish Church

Steyning Parish Church

To coincide with the Heritage Open Days, a whole new self-guided audio tour is being launched by the Friends of Steyning Parish Church to reveal the hidden secrets and history of its special interior.

There is no need to book for the tour, just turn up with your smartphone. **The church will be open 11.00 - 4:00 Saturday 17 and 12:00 - 4:00 Sunday 18 September**, however visitors should note the times of the talks and recitals to which there is no need to book:

Organ recitals on Saturday and Sunday at 3:00pm, given by Brian Sawyer.

Talks on Saturday 17 September at 12:00 and Sunday 18 September at 2:00pm, given by Sarah Leigh, the church historian:

"Built against the odds; how French abbots created Steyning Parish Church and made their peace with the Kings of England".

Rifle Range

Take a walking tour of the historic Rifle Range in the heart of the South Downs. WWII style refreshments available.

Booking for these hour-long tours is essential, see <https://guestli.st/719733>

Available 11:00-3:00, Sunday 18 September only.

Steyning Museum, Church Street

A brand new exhibition will be on display giving the story of Steyning's breweries, and Charlton Street.

Homemade refreshments

Tea, coffee and homemade cakes will be available on

Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 3pm to 5pm

at Penfold Hall .

REV DR FLORENCE LI TIM-OI 1907-92

In 1907 a baby was born in a Hong Kong fishing village. At that time, girl babies were often smothered shortly after birth. But the baby's father, a doctor, then headteacher, gave the baby the name "Tim-Oi" (Much Beloved). She was 14 when she finished primary school, and because funds were lacking, was 27 by the time her schooling was completed. From 1934-8, she studied at Union Theological College, Canton, paid for by the church.

How did the ordination of the first woman priest in the Anglican tradition come about?

The Bishop responsible for the ordination was Bishop R O Hall of Hong Kong. During the war, Hong Kong was occupied by the Japanese. Li Tim-Oi was ordained as a Deacon in 1941 and was exercising an active ministry in Macao. For example, in 1943, 72 girls signed cards asking to be baptized. No priests could travel to Macao to preside at Holy Communion or other sacraments, so Tim-Oi was licensed to preside. The Bishop was not happy with a situation in which effectively lay communion was being administered, so after much prayer and reflection, when he was able to meet her again, in 1944, he ordained her on the grounds that she was already conducting a priestly ministry. On the sixtieth anniversary of Revd Li Tim-Oi's priesting, that Bishop's son, my friend Canon Christopher Hall preached at a memorial service – addressing a "Letter to Florence" as his sermon.



"Did my father tell you that he was tempted to give you a new name – Cornelia? He recognised, even if you did not, that to ordain a woman was equivalent to Peter baptising the gentile Cornelius – quite contrary to the then understanding of God's will. Peter had been shown that, contrary to Jewish belief, gentiles were not unclean – and neither are women. What mattered to my father, as mattered to Peter, was that God had already given to you the gift of priesthood, which for three years you had been licensed to exercise, and your ministry had been manifestly blessed. Who was he to deny what God had already done?"

Professor Hollenweger, the great expert on Pentecostalism, mission and

ecumenism (who supervised my research in theology) used to call this passage in Acts 10 “the conversion of the missionary”. He argued that the church often behaves as though theology and tradition come first, but here the order is the other way round – the activity of God’s spirit comes first. It is Cornelius, not Peter, who has the first vision. The missionary is converted, baptises a gentile and the decision is only ratified later by the church. Peter first does the right thing, then the theology is worked out to justify it, then it is ratified by the church.

Her life after the war was far from easy. She suffered under communist rule in China when churches were officially closed. At one point, she was feeding chickens, not being allowed to nourish a congregation. Eventually in her old age, she moved to be with relatives in Canada.

Resources

The LI Tim-Oi Foundation <https://www.ltof.org.uk/> provides funding for women from the Two -Thirds World for ministerial and vocational training who could otherwise not afford it. Over 500 have benefited so far – of whom 150 are currently being supported. Most of the information in this article was taken from the website, which also gives details of a memoir by Li Tim-Oi and a biography of her.

Roger Williamson

ANAGRAM FOR AUGUST

The anagram for August is: **AUGUSTUS CAESAR**

This is rather long, but a fun one. Several make my mouth water!!

REMEMBER:

All words to have three or more letters, but only use each letter once.
NO capitalised words and NO plurals.

MORE PLANTS FROM A MONASTERY GARDEN

Orchards and fruit gardens have long been associated with Monastic life in the Middle Ages.

The Apple. A favourite fruit in Britain. The Monks experimented with many new varieties of apples and were aware of their benefit as food, medicine or cider making.

The Medlar Tree. This grows to a height of around six metres and is an attractive tree for a small garden. The round green fruits in the Autumn were famous as the base of a famous preserve made in Orleans.

The Mulberry. The common, or black Mulberry was grown for its fruit. The juice was used to add colour and flavour to wines. It was also used to make "Murrey", an accompaniment for various spiced dishes.

Pear. This edible fruit has been grown for centuries in England, and enjoyed as a desert or made into Perry Wine.

The Plum. This is usually a deep purple when ripe; they were grown in Monasteries as far North as Scotland.

The Cherry. Delicious red, sweet cherries were enjoyed by the Monks to break the monotony of frugal meals in the refectory.

Quince. The Quince Tree produces pale pink blossom followed by pear or apple shaped fruit which has a delicious scent when ripe. The fruit was cooked with apple to vary the taste and used in wine making.

AUGUST GARDEN TIPS.

1. Keep Camelias and Rhododendrons well watered through late summer while their flower buds are forming.
2. Tidy Lavender once flowering is over to maintain a compact shape, but avoid cutting into old wood.
3. Remove any spent hardy annuals if you don't want them to self-seed.
4. Prune Rambling Roses, removing up to a third of stems that have flowered, and tie the rest to supports.
5. Keep ponds and water features topped up.
6. Harvest herbs for immediate use and for drying.
7. Order spring bulbs
8. Have fun and enjoy.

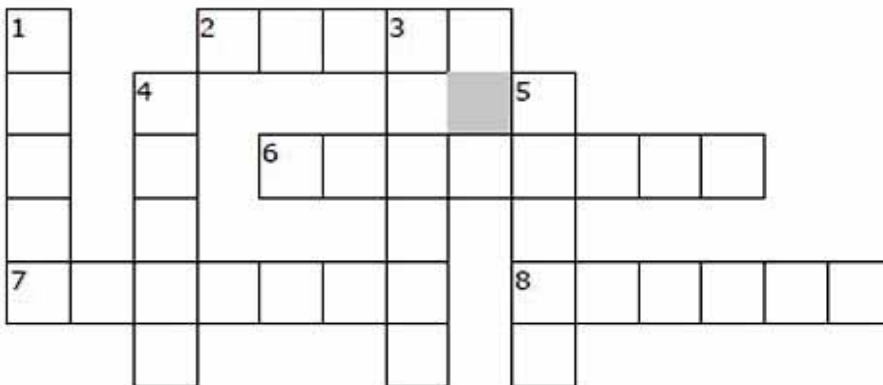
Robert Hill-Snook

JUST FOR FAMILIES - WORDS

WORD SEARCH—STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN

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

GIVE	ANGELS	DREAM	STAIRWAY	LORD
STONE	LAND	EARTH	HEAVEN	HEAD
SLEEP	HOUSE	JACOB	AWOKE	GATE



CROSSWORD CLUES ACROSS

2. The time of darkness
6. A series of steps
7. To tell someone you will definitely do something
8. Spiritual beings that are God's messengers

DOWN

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To rest and close your eyes 3. The place where God is | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. The brother of Esau 5. Images that come into your mind as you sleep. |
|---|--|

RECIPE FOR AUGUST

CHEESE STRAWS

Ingredients

120g butter, softened
450g grated Cheddar Cheese
250g plain flour
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon chilli powder (Optional)



Method

STEP 1

Preheat the oven to 200 C / Gas mark 6. Grease a baking tray. I generally line it as well to save on the washing up!

STEP 2

In a large bowl cream butter and cheese. Stir in flour and salt; mix well.

STEP 3

On a lightly floured surface, roll the dough out to 1.25cm in thickness.

STEP 4

Cut into 5cm strips and sprinkle with chilli powder, if desired.

STEP 5

Place strips on prepared baking tray 3 to 4cm apart.

STEP 6

Bake in the preheated oven for 10 to 15 minutes, or until crisp.

"A classic that goes down well for us on picnics during the summer but also in the garden with a glass of wine!"

***Lord, make us truly thankful for
these and all other blessings.***

I ask this in Jesus Christ's name,

Amen.

GRASS SNAKE

“Go wild in the country, where snakes in the grass are absolutely free.” I can still remember Annabella Lwin, of new-wave pop group Bow Wow Wow, singing those words on Top of the Pops back in 1982: a clarion call for early eighties urbanites to get out into the wild.

Annabella was ecologically correct. There are indeed free snakes out there, a fact that still thrills me each time I encounter one slithering through Sussex. As a child I thought snakes were exotic creatures, which hung off African jungle branches in Johnny Weissmuller Tarzan movies to convey a vague sense of something sinister. But there's nothing sinister about the Grass Snake; the commonest of Britain's three native snake species. Mesmerising eyes, gorgeous sleek scales of olive-green and a series of stripes along their flanks. For a cold-blooded reptile they sure look hot. A key identification feature is that yellow collar encircling the back of their head. Grass Snakes have been rather short-changed when it comes to their name; they're much better at swimming than they are at sitting in the grass (a bit like Johnny Weissmuller, who performed better in the water than he did on dry land). You'll find Grass Snakes gliding through wet ditches and dykes or even in your garden pond as they hunt for their favourite food: frogs and toads.



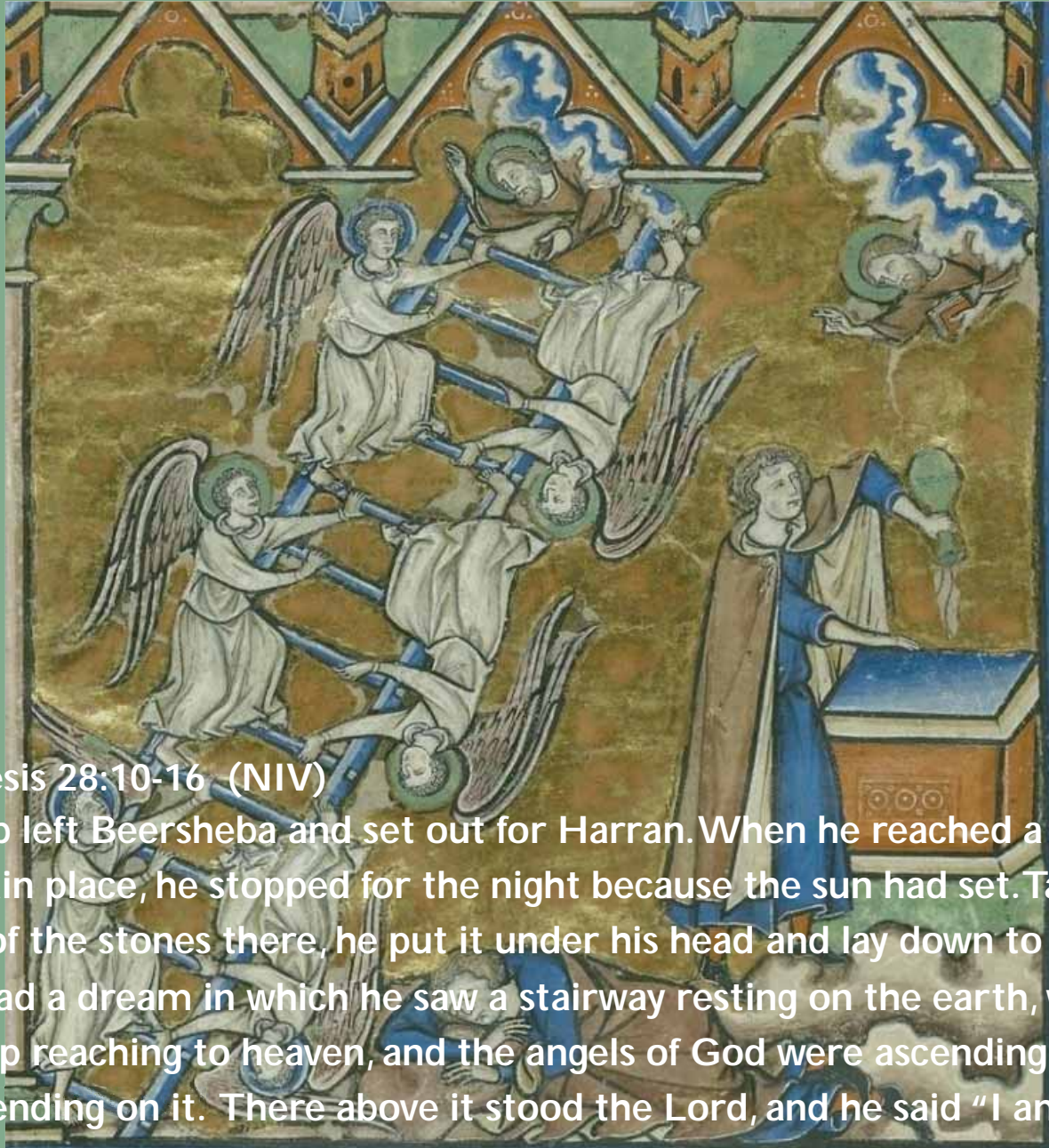
These amphibious feasts really pile on the pounds, so when their snakeskin suits become too tight they slip out of them to reveal a larger, shiny set of scales underneath. They undertake several costume changes each year and can grow to an impressive size – two or three feet is typical but there are rumours of six-foot long monsters out there. Of course they're nothing to be scared of. If threatened they either pretend to be dead, hiss a lot or, according to my reptile book, “release a pungent, foul-smelling substance from their anal gland.”

In July the female Grass Snakes excavate a chamber in a mound of decaying vegetation – a compost heap is perfect. Inside, she lays 5-20 leathery eggs and the heap's heat and humidity cooks them to perfection. Set your egg timer for ten weeks and you'll return to find pencil-sized baby snakes emerging into the world.

I guess not everyone followed Bow Wow Wow's advice back in 1982 because when leading my wildlife walks I'm always amazed at how many adults have never seen a snake in Britain. But it's never too late to go wild in the country.

Michael Blencowe

JACOB'S LADDER



Genesis 28:10-16 (NIV)

Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I was not aware of it."