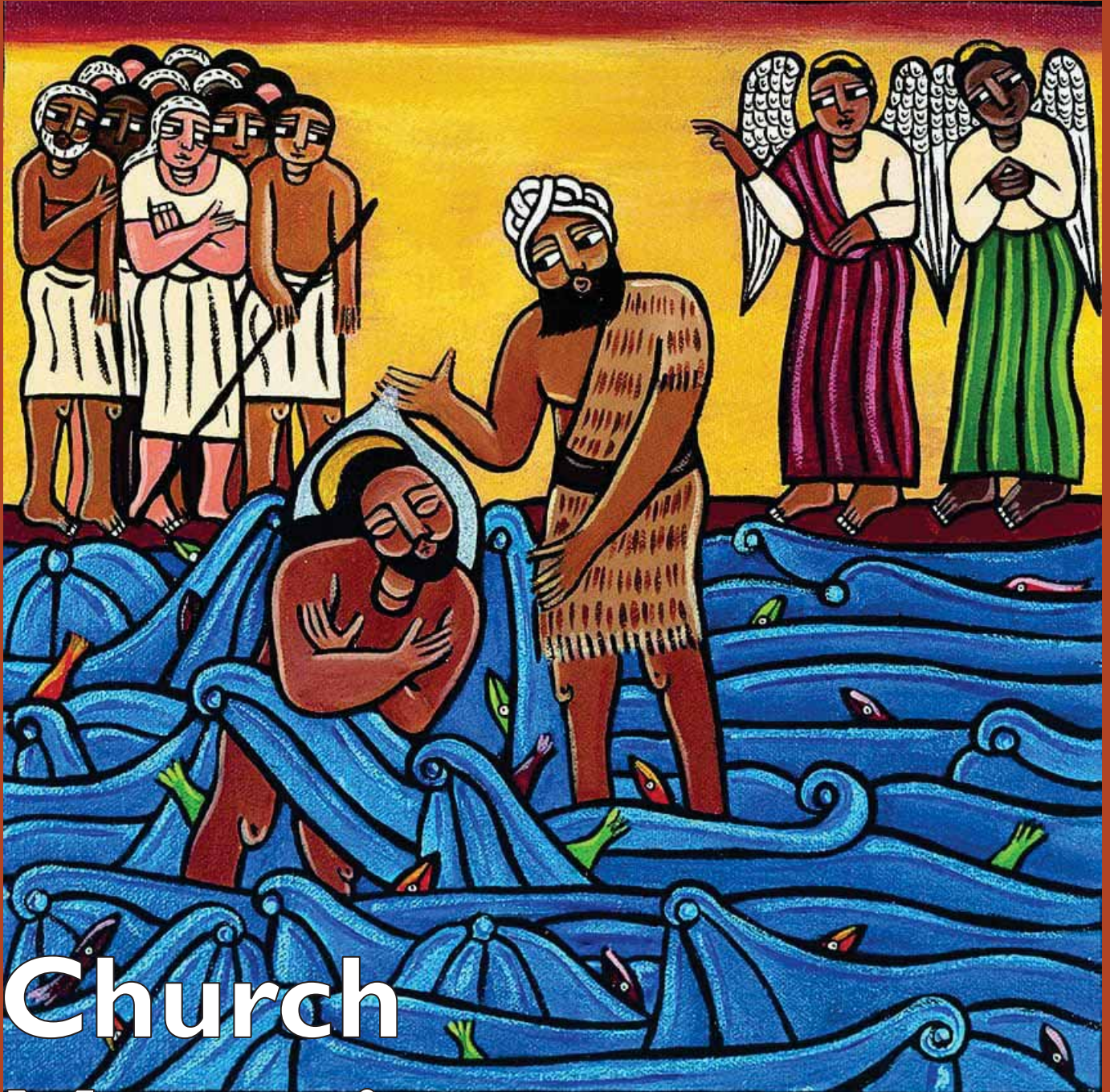


JANUARY 2023

FREE



**Church
Magazine**

Steyning and Ashurst

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

Vicar: The Revd Mark Heather LLB BA

879877

vicarofsteyning@gmail.com or rectorofashurst@gmail.com

CHURCH SERVICES

FEAST OF EPIPHANY

As usual we will observe this on a Sunday.

This year on 8 January

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist (15 January Music Group Eucharist.)

6:00pm Evening Service (8 January Reflections service see advert P4)
(15 January Choral Evensong)(15 January Choral

Evensong)

St James's

10:30am Second Sunday Family Service in celebration of the Epiphany

Fourth Sunday Holy Communion

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Everyone is invited to Steyning Methodist Church
for a special service for Christian Unity

SUNDAY 22 JANUARY at 6pm

Parish Office Address:

Penfold Hall, Church Street,

Steyning BN44 3YB

Tel: 813276

office@steyningparishchurch.org

www.steyningparishchurch.org

Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

PASTORAL LETTER



Dear Friends,

Not surprisingly we tend to think of the Bible as a book – whether a slightly dusty one that we know where to find in an emergency, or a well-thumbed favourite translation that we use at least once every week. Jesus didn't see it like that. He would have been more used to hearing the scriptures read out loud from long scrolls in the synagogue. And when those words were read, it wasn't as a recital of history or stories about prophets and judges and kings but the voices of the characters – from Moses to the prophets – speaking aloud and directly, on behalf of God, his father.

For Jesus and those in the synagogue with him, of course, the scriptures did not include the New Testament. That came later. His scriptures were what became our Old Testament, and it was this that informed his ministry and everything he did. In Matthew's Gospel (as we see on page 7), Jesus says to John the Baptist, that he must be baptised 'in order to fulfil all righteousness' or in other words, to fulfil the scriptures. His ministry begins with this baptism, and this phrase connects the New Testament with the Old. It also shows how much Jesus took the scriptures to heart. Much more than words on a page, the scriptures describe the will of God for the world and for everyone personally. (In Luke's Gospel, Jesus reading from the Prophets, in the synagogue at Nazareth, makes a similar connection; see Luke 4:16-22.)

As you will see from Bishop Martin's letter on page 9 of this magazine, 2023 is to be celebrated as a Year of the Old Testament, and 2024 will focus on the New Testament and we prepare to make 2025 a 'Year of Faith'. Let's use this year to rejoice in the Hebrew scriptures as Jesus did, our 'Old Testament' without which the New Testament makes little sense.

Happy New Year!

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 all those who worship with us.

At the start of this new year I would first like to wish you a happy and healthy year ahead; secondly I would like to record my continued thanks to the proof-readers of this magazine who between them do an amazing job every month; and of course lastly, to ask you to send me any article for publication to the address below.

The picture on the cover is by Laura James, and entitled Jesus' Baptism. If you or a member of your family has not been baptised, then do talk to Fr Mark. Services can be held throughout the year in church.

steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

Reflections



'Open the Door'

"Knock, and the door will be opened for you" (Matthew 7:7)

Sunday 8 January, 6pm

All are welcome to attend this short, informal time of watching and listening to our Lord.

The Parish Church of St Andrew
& St Cuthman, Steyning

PARISH REGISTERS

FUNERALS

- 2 December Alice Wilkes (died 24 November 2022)
At Worthing Crematorium
- 8 December John Michael Chapman
(died 17 November 2022)

BAPTISM

At St James's

- 27 November Brodie Alexander Tipping

CONFIRMATIONS ON 20 NOVEMBER

- Martin Alan Eastwood (Baptised and Confirmed)
David Leslie O'Brien
Roger James Toms
Laura Gosset
Elyse Alexandra ("Ellie") Roberts

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 JANUARY

Sunday 1 January **The Naming of Jesus**

Friday 6 January **Epiphany (Transferred to 8 January)**

O God, who by the leading of a star manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth; mercifully grant that we, who know you now by faith, may at last behold your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 8 January **The Baptism of Christ (Transferred to 9 January)**

Sunday 15 January **The Second Sunday of Epiphany**

Wednesday 18 January **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Almighty God, in Christ you make all things new: transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your heavenly glory; 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 22 January **The Third Sunday of Epiphany**

Wednesday 25 January **The Conversion of Paul**

Almighty God, who caused the light of the gospel to shine throughout the world through the preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 29 January **The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

27 January (Friday) is HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

A National Date

A day for remembrance of people who suffered, chiefly at the hands of the Nazis during the second World War but also in other persecutions.

It aims to keep memory fresh and ensure that no such atrocity happens again.



PAUSE AND PRAY FOR 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, power 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

Prayer for Peace

Peace go with you.
God's quiet within the noise.
God's hope within uncertainty.
God's rest within the toil.
God's presence within your soul.
Peace go with you.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

I was baptised as a baby in the Methodist church, and was confirmed, in Exeter Cathedral, when I was at college. I wonder what your story is?

In the passage this month we meet two people who were baptised 2000 years ago, and then went on to baptise others. John and Jesus. But their stories were quite different. First we see John the Baptist who calls



us to baptism, but also points beyond himself to the one greater than himself - whose sandals he is not fit to untie. Is there someone on your faith journey who has pointed you beyond and away from themselves towards a greater knowledge of Christ? Maybe this was a Godparent or a parent or carer? In today's celebrity driven culture there lives a huge temptation to focus on our own abilities, power, needs and achievements - but here John shows a different model of inspiration, by wanting us to prepare ourselves for Christ and then getting out of the way so not to detract us from that journey. He called people to repentance; his baptism with water called them to prepare their hearts, minds and lives for the Messiah, but when questioned about his work he pointed them to one coming who would gather all people together and kindle the flame of God's love.

Along with thousands of Gentiles, John the Baptist then baptises Jesus in the muddy River Jordan. Why? John was hesitant to baptise Jesus because he recognised that he was not just another person coming to repent and confess sins, and said, "I need to be baptised by you, but you are coming to me?" (Matt 3 14) Jesus' answer is that it must be so to "fulfil righteousness" - to fulfil his role as the obedient Son of God; to demonstrate that he would follow God's will fully here on earth. We read that Jesus came up from the water, so we aren't sure how deep the River Jordan was, but we are told very clearly of the words heard from heaven -

"You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matt 3)

and the Spirit of God descended on him like a dove.

Today we are not baptised simply because Jesus was, but we are baptised with the Holy Spirit through Jesus. The marking of a new beginning through grace, and one that should last the whole of our lives.

Many young families do not bring their children for baptism and when I have asked why, the main response has been "We want them to be free to choose when they are older". My threefold thoughts on this are: God has given us all the freedom of choice, and we can choose to reject and deny or accept and follow Him at any point in our lives: If children are brought up with some knowledge of Jesus and Christianity then they are better equipped to help them decide about their faith life: At baptism we are given Godparents and through them and their promises lies the hope that young people will remain strong to those baptism promises of faithfulness.

In this busy world it is hard to remember the anniversary of one's baptism, but it would be helpful to do so for us all because we are not just remembering a past event that remains in the past. We are also making Christ present now and in our lives to come for Christ does claim us for his own.

In the Baptism service we are asked "Do you turn to Christ?" That is such a good question for us to have at our fingertips each and every day and in all circumstances, to help us find the right course of action or the right answer. It could also be taken physically; for us to find a physical position that would enable us to turn our attention to Christ - to turn with our whole bodies and gaze upon him and be anchored.

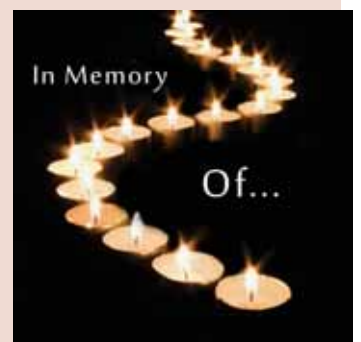
Chris Fitton

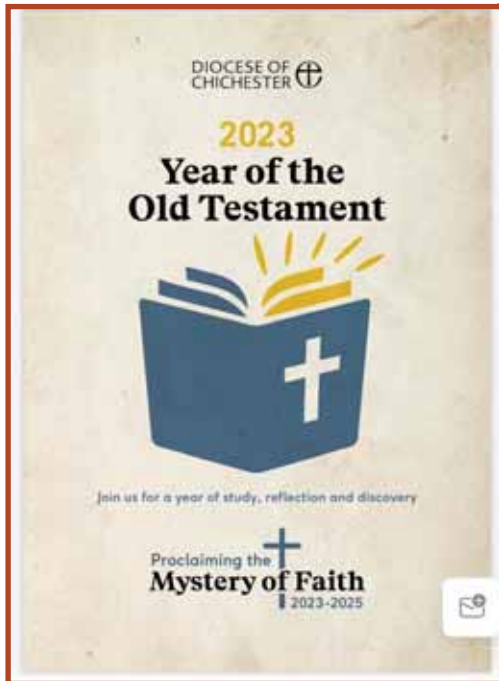
BAPTISM

*To find out more about baptism of a child, young person or adult
in Steyning Parish Church or Ashurst Church,
please talk to Fr Mark 01903 879877*

MEMORIAL BOOK

To arrange for someone's name to be added to the memorial book in the north aisle of Steyning Parish Church please complete a form at the back of church. There is a suggested donation of at least £10, to include the cost of all the calligraphy.





YEAR OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

THE BISHOP OF CHICHESTER WRITES TO US ALL:

I would like to invite everyone in the diocese to keep 2023 as a year of the Old Testament.

This year is the first of two special years [2024 will be the Year of the New Testament] leading up to the 2025 which we will keep as a special

Year of Faith. 2025 celebrates 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea which gave us what became the Nicene Creed.

It also marks 950 years of Christian mission in a diocese based in Chichester. Hence why the three-year programme is known as Proclaiming the Mystery of Faith.

The Year of the Old Testament will reflect on the Hebrew Scriptures. We will seek to understand the Law, the Prophets and the Writings in their original context, and see more clearly how they point us towards Jesus Christ and the gospel, and to our own knowledge of him in the history of his body, the Church. The Old Testament speaks repeatedly of God as One and as Holy.

So we hope that this Year will help us to understand how the Old Testament guides the Church to be 'one' and 'holy': the first two of the 'marks of the Church' and part of our diocesan strategy.

+ Martin

EILEEN BUCKLEY 1926 - 2022



Known by many different names to different people, mum, granny, Mrs B, Eileen. For the purposes of this tribute - I'll go with Eileen.

Eileen Dorothy Ellis was born in Hove, during the Summer of 1926, to Frederick and Matilda Ellis. The eldest of two daughters, Eileen had a younger sister Joyce. Frederick had been a nurseryman prior to the First World War. After serving in the war, he returned home to become a window cleaner. Her mother Matilda had been a housekeeper before their marriage.

Eileen would frequently recount her fond memories of a happy childhood, walking and cycling around her grandparents' home in Laughton, near Lewes and on the South Downs. On Saturday mornings she would accompany her father to the 'big houses' in Hove to collect his window cleaning money. It was a simple, loving early life, surrounded by her extended family.

When the Second World War broke out in 1939, Eileen was just 13 years old. The outbreak of the war changed everything. Her education was halted. Instead of lessons, she spent her time at school assisting the war effort, making blinds for the blackout, and looking after the younger children.

As with the rest of her generation, the war had a huge and lasting impact on Eileen. She would proudly recall hosting young evacuees at home and cheering on aircraft from the streets. One day Eileen and her friends came under attack from an enemy fighter plane strafing a road in Hove. They threw themselves face-first onto the ground and she escaped unharmed.

At the age of just 14 Eileen went to work as a cashier at the Palmeira department store in Hove, where she loved working. On trips to Hove with her family in later life she would always proudly point out where the store had been and lament its demise. It was working here where Eileen developed her keen knack for mental arithmetic, a skill in which she always stayed far superior to all her family.

Later in the war, she worked in the records office in Brighton where she tracked the movements of soldiers fighting in the war. Eileen went on to train and work as a dental nurse in Hove and volunteered for the St John Ambulance. It was while working here that she met her lifelong best friend Mary.

In her twenties, Eileen met a rather dashing Welshman, Irvine Buckley. Irvine trained as a teacher after the war, and Eileen and Irvine married in 1958. A year later, Eileen gave birth to David. Barbara, Rhys and William followed in quick succession. In 1961 with their day-old baby daughter and little son, Irvine and Eileen were able to move into their cherished family home in De Braose Way. Buying a home in Steyning fulfilled a lifelong dream of Eileen's, sparked by visiting the Steyning market as a child. It's just as well she loved it so much as she would go on to spend the rest of her long life here!

The young family had little money, but the children remember having the best of times. As Irvine was a teacher, he would have four weeks off in the Summer, so the family would set off on camping trips all over the country in a two door Mini with trailer attached. I can only imagine the sight of this little blue car arriving and disgorging two adults and four lively children, who proceeded to set up their camp of ex-army bivouac tents too low to stand up in.

During these holidays, Eileen somehow was able to care for everyone and cook for her family on a simple primus stove. An operation which involved a pressure cooker precariously fitted with small weights which were lifted on and off using the prongs of a carving fork! Eileen and Irvine gave their family fun holidays and wonderful memories.

As her children grew Eileen always encouraged them and supported all of their activities. To say she was generous with her time would be an understatement. Constantly busy with the brownies, guides, the NSPCC fundraising committee, the church, the school – the list is endless. She made thousands of cups of tea and never sought the limelight. She was happy to support and help in the background. Her children's friends were always welcome at their house and her Christmas morning buffets after church were legendary. She would go above and beyond to make all visitors feel comfortable and at home.

Eileen was a person who cared for others and never put herself first. She was always taking care of her friends and neighbours. She took care of her elderly father at the family home for 12 years, which must have been far from easy for her with her own young family. A truly selfless, caring and hardworking person, Eileen was made in her mother's mould and would be proud to be considered so.

As her children grew up and started to have families and busy lives of their own, two heart-breaking tragedies occurred in Eileen's life.

The premature passing of her husband Irvine two days before Barbara's wedding, and the death of her beloved eldest son David, who sadly died at just 30 years old in the storms of 1990. Eileen proved that she was made of strong stuff, had a strong Christian faith and showed incredible resilience and inspirational strength of character in how she coped, so much so that she was able to step in and give Barbara away at her wedding just two days after Irvine's death.

Following David's death, Eileen decided to honour him and emulate his love of travel by embarking on her own set of global adventures. Everyone wondered if she had gone a little mad... but she in turn inspired all of us to get out there, have our own adventures, and see the world!

One memorable trip to Russia involved a voyage on the Trans-Siberian railway from Moscow to Irkutsk. She was particularly taken by the conductress stationed in her carriage whose job it was to look after the passengers. Eileen wrote in her journal "Up at 6am to find our conductress still in her nightgown and dressing gown with a sky-blue hair net cleaning windows and Hoovering". That image clearly made a big impression on her. In some ways, she would become her own version of that woman in later life when she would wake up at the crack of dawn to sweep the path and weed in the garden whilst the rest of us were all tucked up in bed.

Eileen loved being a grandmother and cherished her role as Granny Buckley to her nine grandchildren. Eileen's daughter Barbara believes the only way she was able to undertake her training and consultant job was because Eileen would often take care of all four of her children when she was on call. Her grandchildren were the most important thing in her life, and she took great interest in their activities, and pride in their achievements. To add to the family, she also gained four great-grandchildren and loved them all dearly. In her final months she attended Hudson's christening here at

St Andrew's & St. Cuthman's and baby Margot stayed with her on her last weekend, just as all her grandchildren had done so many times before.

Eileen was truly a Steyning legend. She knew absolutely everyone, and everyone who knew her loved her. Well into her 90s she supported the Brownies and continued to be an active member of the Trefoil. She loved the Steyning History Society and supported any event at the Church – especially when food and wine were being served!

At the age of 90 she was awarded a Steyning Lifetime Achievement Award in honour of her lifetime of support and dedication to the town she loved so much. This was a true testament to her selfless, hard-working character, her enduring sense of civic duty and commitment to the Steyning community.

Eileen had always said that she wanted to live as long as she was able to stay in the home she loved, and was lucky and tough enough to achieve this. In her last few years, she was wrapped in love and attention by her dear neighbours and friends who took such amazing care of her. You know who you are and we cannot thank you enough for that precious gift you gave to her and to us.



Even in death, Eileen gave herself to others. She would proudly tell us that when she would die she would donate her body to the London Anatomy School so that students could learn from her as her daughter and granddaughters had done. This was a wish that she was ultimately able to fulfil.

In the week of her 96th and final birthday, Gloria, my sister, was visiting before setting off to New Zealand for a year. In a clear moment of lucidity Eileen was able to reassure Gloria in her matter-of-fact way, that "all good things must come to end!" And come to an end this remarkable and amazing life has. We have lost the physical presence of a loving mum, granny, great granny and an unfailing loyal friend. But we all know, she would not have wanted us to be sad for too long – but happy and grateful that we all gained the benefit of her long full time here on the earth. She will be dearly missed by us all.

Barbara Buckley (Grandaughter)

PRAYER POINTS FOR JANUARY

- For all our personal gifts and talents and that we will find the opportunity to use them for good.
- For all victims of violence and abuse; hope that they find the right support, healing and peace.
- For help to keep resolutions; for healing of divisions; for humility to search for reconciliation; for the grace to live with difference.
- For all teachers and educators in any local school or setting.
- For Penns Court and all the residents there.
- For the work of Family Support Work, and all who support refugees in our area.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

January 18 - 25

A reflection from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches.

Do good and seek Justice (Isaiah 1:17)

In the verse from Isaiah for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the prophet teaches that God requires righteousness and justice from all of us, all the time and in all spheres of life. The challenges wrought by division in our world today in many ways mirror the challenges Isaiah confronted in his preaching, when he called the listeners to do good and seek justice.

Justice, righteousness and unity originate from God's profound love for each of us and are at the heart of who God is and how God expects us to be with one another. God's commitment to create a new humanity "*from all tribes, peoples and languages.*" (*Revelation 7:9*) calls us to the peace and unity God always wanted for creation.

Learning to do right requires the decision to engage in self - reflection. The Week of Prayer is the perfect time to recognise that the divisions between our churches and confessions cannot be separated from the divisions within the wider human family. Praying together for Christian unity allows us to reflect on what unites us and to commit ourselves to confront oppression and the divisions amongst humanity. Churches of various denominations may work together in mission in peace and love, seeking the unity that is Christ's gift.

SAINT OF THE MONTH

ARCHBISHOP WILLIAM LAUD, MARTYR (1573-1645)

William Laud was born in Reading, the son of a tailor. After Reading School he read theology at St John's College Oxford being ordained priest in 1601. He had powerful patrons and rose to prominence becoming Bishop of London in 1628.

Laud became involved in controversy because of his preaching of greater sacramentalism and "the beauty

of holiness" when, at this time, most in the Church of England were Calvinist believing that preaching and plainness and simplicity in worship should be the norm. On becoming Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633 he used the full force of the law to require the use of surplices and holy tables set against the east wall of churches.

As a result he made enemies with the militant Puritans. This was made worse when, at the behest of the King, Laud attempted to introduce Anglican liturgy in Scotland in 1637 which led to revolt and war. The Long Parliament of 1640 accused the Archbishop of treason and called for his imprisonment. As a result, he was taken to the Tower of London where he remained throughout the first period of the Civil War. However, due to Laud's age (he was 68 in 1641) the Parliamentary authorities failed to bring him to trial.

Three years later a trial was organised which ended without a verdict because it proved impossible to point to any specific action as treasonable. Not content with this, Parliament passed a Bill of Attainder and Archbishop Laud was beheaded on Tower Hill on 10 January 1645. On the scaffold he prayed:

"Lord I am coming as fast as I can, I know I must pass through the shadow of death before I can come to see thee. Lord receive my soul and have mercy upon me, and bless this kingdom with peace and plenty, and with brotherly love and charity, that here may not be this effusion of Christian blood"

CHURCHES TOGETHER AT CROFT MEADOW

In November Churches Together held their first service at Croft Meadow. Vanessa led this month and was supported by a few from each church as we sang three hymns, had a short reading and a prayer and a blessing. There was also much laughter and all 20 residents who chose to come joined in as much as each was able. Churches Together hope to make this a monthly service.





*Excerpts from an informal speech by Jeremy Tomlinson,
Chairman of the Friends of Steyning Parish Church.*

Sitting in a pew, you are in a good position to admire this magnificent Norman nave with its rich carving recently enhanced by the new lighting installation. But do not leave without having a look at one of Steyning's greatest treasures: the Tudor panelling in the chapel in the north aisle. This so-called 'Steyning Screen' is a collection of elaborately carved oak panels dating from the early sixteenth century. They were part of the domestic furnishing of Fulham Palace, residence of the Bishops of London, when Richard Fitzjames (a former Bishop of Chichester) held that office between 1506 and 1522. He was a man of great learning with a long record of service to the Crown. He rebuilt and furnished Fulham Palace during the



years when Henry 8th was (happily) married to Katherine of Aragon and the panels are richly adorned with heraldic symbols and iconography which seem to celebrate their union: roses for the Tudors; grapes for Spain; pomegranates for Katherine; fleurs de lis for France; portcullises for the Beauforts; Royal arms; oaks; grapevines; ivy; greyhounds; dragons; eagles; lions; dolphins; crosiers and swords; mitres and crowns and the Bishop's own cypher, not to mention saints, angels and putti, all exquisitely carved and, perhaps, once brightly painted. We are celebrating this artefact this year because it has the date 1522 spelt out in full in

Latin words on a border scroll. 500 years.

The panels may in fact be older than that because Henry married Katherine in 1509, and 1522 was the year Bishop Fitzjames died. How the panels came to Steyning is another fascinating story recently told here by Alexis Haslam, archaeologist at Fulham Palace. Just imagine who those panels may have seen and heard and who may have admired them!

Now they tell a very different story. Because 1522, just two years after the Field of

the Cloth of Gold, was also the year in which 15 year old Anne Boleyn came home from France and soon won Henry 8th away from her sister Mary. Over the next decade their story and Henry's painful, protracted divorce from Katherine became synonymous with the Reformation, and led to the split with Rome and the dissolution of the Monasteries, which makes Henry at least partly responsible for the collapse of the original transepts, chancel and central tower of this church.

The Steyning Screen was probably rescued by the seventeenth century Bishop of London, William Juxon, also formerly of Chichester, who was related to an incumbent of Steyning. Thus it came to be in the Vicarage for about 300 years until 1983 when it became a kind of reredos in the chancel, when the altar was moved forwards for westward celebration. Much more recently it has been placed in the north aisle chapel, now illuminated, appreciated and carefully studied by Linda Denyer.

A final thought: As you light your winter fires, spare a thought for William Tyndale and Thomas Cranmer, whose beautiful words, echoing centuries of tradition, are still heard in church every Sunday, and for John Lauder and all victims of tyranny and heartless cruelty.

Revd Canon Margaret Dean, the daughter of Maurice Garner who was Vicar of Steyning between 1971 and 1978, has very kindly agreed to give us her memories of living with the screen in a domestic setting.

Jeremy Tomlinson



The Friends of
Steyning Parish Church

**CELEBRATING THE TUDOR SCREEN'S
500TH ANNIVERSARY**

Living with the 'Tudor screen'

A short talk given in Steyning Church by the Revd Canon Margaret Dean

My father, Maurice Garner, came to be vicar of this church in 1971. The very first question that a clergy family asks when a move to a new parish is imminent is not 'What's the church like? Or what are the people like? But 'What's the house like?' The Vicarage (or Rectory) is above all else a home, an escape from the outside world, a safe place, a comfortable refuge. These houses come in all shapes and sizes.

My parents were in their 60s when they arrived here. Three of their children were already married with young families, and living in different parts of the country. I was the fourth and at that point a student, and the only one who would call this house home during college and school holidays over the next seven years. Perhaps that was one of the reasons why Dad was appointed here: he was not bringing riotous young off-spring to live with the Tudor panelling, as we called it!

My mother's answer to my question 'What's the house like?' was cautious: 'well – it's quite new and much smaller than we are used to, but much easier to look after. I don't know how we'll fit everything in. And there's the most extraordinary panelling in the sitting room, filling a whole wall. We'll just have to put the piano in front of it!'

So began the adjustment of sharing life with the Tudor panelling. It dominated the sitting room which had clearly been designed to house it, and it backed onto a shared wall with the kitchen, which always struck me as risky.

My mother worried about keeping it clean, yet knew nothing more than a feather duster would ever do.

I spent hours staring at its detail when I should have been practicing the piano, and wondered who else had lived with it in the past; whilst Dad was the historian and able to talk to friends and visitors who always wanted to know where it had come from, why it was in the vicarage and not in the church and what all the symbols meant.

But we got used to it. It added a sense of the past to the room, and also I admit a certain grandeur to our well-loved furniture. It was at Christmas time that I was most greatly challenged when it was time to put up Christmas decorations. But I promise – no drawing pins went anywhere near it!

Small grandchildren did come to stay in the course of the seven years, and in preparation for today's occasion I asked a couple of them (now in their 50s) what they remember about that sitting room. One didn't remember the panelling at all! Amazingly the other does remember it quite clearly, but has no memory of being told not to touch it. That would have been typical of my parents' approach: 'don't draw the children's attention to it...' and so the panelling survived!

My understanding is that the panelling was installed in the new vicarage because it had belonged in the old house. It was thought to be safe in the vicarage and at that stage in Steyning church's life there was nowhere obvious to house it there.

Looking back I wonder exactly who was responsible for its safe-keeping. The vicar had the freehold of the house, or was it the Diocese or the Churchwardens and PCC? Was the panelling insured? It would be irreplaceable anyway. No wonder my parents were concerned about living with it, though of course they never mentioned that!

The Revd Canon Margaret Dean

A comment sent to me after he had read November 2022 magazine:

"We see pictures of Jewish people praying at the Wailing Wall, they bob up and down.

At one point they take three steps backwards.

I am told that is the time they are praying for peace because you can't have peace if you are crowding the other person, you have to step back to give him space.

I don't know if that's true, but I must have been told by some rabbi long ago."

THANK YOU

Two **BIG Thank You's** this month and to tell you about the money raised. First was the Christmas card sale. David Fitton was able to send £263 card sale money to The Children's Society, and £79.20 in your other donations, a total of £342.20.

Second was the Quiz Night. The Catering and Social Committee, with David Kirkcaldy as Quiz Master, organised a fun evening in November. It was your generosity that enabled the PCC to send £364.00 to The Salvation Army Christmas Appeal.

Thank you for your support for both events.

GIFTS AND WIZARDS

Most of us westerners make a big thing of 25 December as the Birth of the Saviour. But quite a large percentage of Christians pay much more attention to the Twelfth Day of Christmas which we call Epiphany, the day of the Wise Men; because, after all, they came from the East; each to his own.

They have a curious history; described as ordinary visitors with special abilities to interpret dreams and hold positions as special advisers, they are shown in church art as any number from two to twelve, though usually three. They then developed into Kings, collected various names in different parts of the world, and their relics are, I believe, still venerated in Germany and Italy. So much for "returning home!" They have been overtaken in number, though not in glamour, by the shepherds, largely I suspect by the need to have more cast vacancies for the school Nativity Play.

More to the point however, are the gifts they brought – gold, frankincense and myrrh: signs or parables or coded messages for Royalty, Divinity and suffering.

Now I have at home all three of those gifts.

I have a gold half sovereign. given to me by dear old Augusta Birnie on my 21st birthday as a thank you for the many times our family went to sleep in her house each night, because she was frail, alone and really terrified by the air raids.

I have a little pot of incense grains; not the modern joss sticks, but the real thing that looks like the brown sugar grains that never used to melt in your coffee cup and formed a sort of sludge at the bottom.

I have a little pharmacist's bottle, labelled and containing Tincture of Myrrh. It used to be standard treatment in the nursery for toothache. As an old lady in a care home once said to me, "they always used it; it never worked!"

They have one thing in common: they are no use as they are.

Gold needs to be spent; there was a legend that Joseph and Mary paid for the return fare and lodging in Egypt as they evacuated away from Herod. Incense needs to be burned to make a smell. All that burned meat in the Temple must have made an appalling stench, not just one small joint in the oven! Myrrh needs to evaporate to work (which it doesn't!)

You have a gift, use it. don't say "Oh no, I couldn't do that".

THE ARTS SOCIETY

Cubism Explained by Steven Barrett Monday 9 January 2023

The most influential art movement of the 20th century, according to many, will be explored in this lecture to reveal the true beauty of Cubist painting. The theory behind Cubism, its various phases and the different types of Cubist painting, collage and sculpture between c.1907-25 will be covered. The talk will be illustrated with art by Picasso, Braque, Léger and others.

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

Free to members, £10 donation for visitors.

GRATITUDE AND GROWING OLD

Stephen Gurr prompted me to return to the Book of Job, but it was hard going as it is so full of agony, However it did create a reminder for me to practice a habit of gratitude especially in my prayers. As aches and pains, sadness and tears, worry and stress can overtake ones thoughts as we grow old, here is a short prayer of thanks, but please create your own.....

For this breath, thanks; for this tear, thanks; for this memory of something I used to enjoy, thanks; for this ability to rage over what has been taken, but to celebrate what once was given, thanks; for waking up at this New Year, thanks. *Chris Fitton*



TIP OF THE MONTH

POST-CHRISTMAS REUSE AND RECYCLE

- Try and have a healthier post - Christmas this year.
- When you are using left - overs make the plate look festive with different coloured vegetables.
- Keep unwanted presents to pass on to friends and family later in the year. You wont feel stressed trying to find them something at the last minute.
- Cut up Christmas cards to make present tags for next Christmas.
- There are often days that are cold and crisp and even sunny so get out and have a good walk in nature.

Jackie Flowers - Leek

COMMUNITY

COFFEE

Please come and join the Wednesday Coffee team for friendly conversation and a mug of fresh coffee or tea and a biscuit. Many of our visitors leave us before 11:30am to attend the Midweek Eucharist. However, there is always someone to chat to until you have finished your coffee and are ready to leave us.

Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team



THE PENFOLD HALL.

The doors are open from **10am until 11:30am**
every **Wednesday morning.**

COMMUNITY COFFEE

BRAND NEW WEBSITE



The Friends of
Steyning Parish Church

CHECK OUT OUR BRAND NEW WEBSITE

www.friendsofspc.org

- ⇒ GET NEWS OF EVENTS
- ⇒ TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE CHURCH INTERIOR FROM THE COMFORT OF YOUR HOME OR COME TO THE CHURCH.
- ⇒ See photos showing detail s of church history and recent events
- ⇒ Find out what the friends are planning for our community
- ⇒ **And more**

THE STEYNING SOCIETY

Friday 20 January 2023
7:00pm for 7:30pm
The Steyning Centre
The Life Story of a
Winemaker
by Dermot Sugrue

Dermot is a national figure in the winemaking industry and was the winemaker for the Wiston Estate. He has won many awards and has been described as the best winemaker of sparkling wines in the UK.

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

<https://steyningsociety.org.uk/monthly-talks/>

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY FRIDAY 27 JANUARY

May we never forget the Holocaust, and work for justice for all ethnic minorities.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY

UKRAINE

Please pray for Alison Giblett and local partners Valery Alymov and Anya Manchuliak and their church in Kyiv. They are reaching out with aid and encouragement to areas in the east and south that have been liberated from Russia. This is difficult, demanding and potentially dangerous work: pray for safety and stamina, for their own resilience and mental health and wisdom in how to use their limited resources.

BOLIVIA

Praise God that the general strike across Santa Cruz, Bolivia has finally ended and people are now able to return to normal life. An agreement between the national government and regional leaders has resulted in a law which has met demands from both sides of the dispute. Also in Bolivia, wildfires are causing heavy smoke around Tarija where local partner Bishop Walter Toro lives. Residents have been advised to remain indoors due to very poor air quality and flights to the city have been cancelled.

BRAZIL

In southern Brazil, heavy rains are causing landslides, with one landslide leading to at least two deaths and leaving many more missing. Please pray for safety for people in the affected areas.

NEPAL

Please pray for the Sunita Project (palliative care) that mission associate Dan Munday is involved in, as it's meeting a real need.

St Andrew's Men's Society is a meeting of a group of male members of Steyning Parish Church and guests. We meet in the Penfold Hall, beginning with a glass or two of wine and nibbles. Then we enjoy a talk.

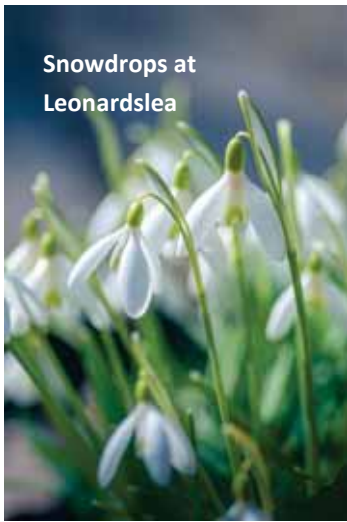
**Our next meeting: Gavin Flowers - Leek will give a talk entitled:
Krakov and favourite places**

Date: Tuesday 24 January

Doors open at 3:45 for 4:00 start

Any enquiries please to Leonard Warner (01903 812752)





FLOWERS IN STEYNING PARISH CHURCH



Church Flowers in January

Jan 1

Christmas Flowers

Jan 8 & 15

June Green

Jan 22 & 29

Sue Clark

The January birth flowers are carnations and snowdrops. Which isn't surprising considering they're two of the very few flowers that thrive in winter!

Thank you very much to all the flower arrangers who willingly and ably gave their time to assist with the Christmas flowers on TWO Saturday mornings. It was much appreciated. Also thanks to Ben Warner for putting up the Christmas Tree and to all who helped dismantle everything and clean up. And lastly thanks to Derek Crush of Daylands Farm for supplying the beautiful tree.

Carol McKechnie



FSW

Thank you for your truly wonderful support with very generous gifts of donated food and money last year.

FSW have just launched their "**Winter Warmth**" appeal and the details are at the back of the church by the FSW board, or from me, Wendy 01903 813306.

The new Tuesday Market decided to have a raffle for charity and they have donated the proceeds of £110.40 to FSW. Huge thanks to them for this lovely and very kind thought.

News next month of our Spring Deanery Fund Raising Afternoon Tea with the Revd Rupert Toovey.

Sue and I send you our best wishes for your Peace and Happiness this New Year,

Wendy Francis

NEW CHAPEL AT WORTHING HOSPITAL



Hospital Chaplains from across the Trust gathered to mark the opening of The Sanctuary, a new welcoming space that replaces the former chapel.

Bishop Will, seen here, dedicated The Sanctuary.

ANAGRAM FOR JANUARY

The anagram for January is:
HOGMANAY

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

Only eight letters so I have struggled to find words of more than five letters. I did however feel very pleased that I found "HYMN".

(Bill Has found an eight letter word - can you too?)

"The greatest gift one can give is thanksgiving. In giving gifts, we give what we can spare, but in giving thanks we give ourselves."

Brother David Steindl-Rast,
Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer



JUST FOR FAMILIES QUIZ



Qu 1 Who did the Prince and Princess of Wales pick as one of Prince George's godparents?

Prince Harry or Zara Tindall

Qu 2 Where was Jesus baptised?

The River Jordan or The Dead Sea

Qu 3 What does the word "Baptism" mean?

Putting into or dying or watering

Qu 4 In Matthew ch. 28, Christ told his disciples to baptise in whose name?

Father, Son and Holy Spirit or Jesus Christ

Answers
1. Zara Tindall 2. The River Jordan 3. Putting in 4. Father, Son and Holy Spirit

COLOUR IN: A CHURCH BAPTISM



RECIPE FOR JANUARY

MIDWEEK CHICKEN SUPPER

INGREDIENTS

- 8 whole chicken thighs
- 150ml natural yogurt
- 2 tbsp madras or other curry paste
- 2 tsp ground turmeric
- 1 tsp mild chilli powder
- ½ lemon, juiced
- naan, roti or chapatis warmed, to serve if desired



METHOD

STEP 1

Remove the skins from the thighs if desired. Use a sharp knife to cut 3-4 deep slashes in the thighs down to the bone.

STEP 2

Put the yogurt, curry paste, spices and lemon juice in a bowl and season well. Add the thighs and toss to coat. Leave to marinate for at least 30 minutes (even better if you can leave a bit longer, I usually try for overnight).

STEP 3

Heat the oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas 6. Arrange the thighs on a large baking sheet and put in the oven for 40-50 minutes or until cooked through and charring at the edges.

Warm the naan, roti or chapatis if using, following pack instructions.

Serve with salad.

For every good meal you have shared,
for every kind word you have received,
for every good book on your shelves,
for every good idea in your heads,
for every good message on your phone
may our good Lord be thanked.



GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

My New Year's resolution is to try and be more positive about the future - but I already feel like banging my head repeatedly against a tree. Standing out in the street this morning, I heard a noise that reassured me that I'm not alone.

The drumming of the Great Spotted Woodpecker is a familiar sound throughout February, surely earning this striking black and white bird the reputation as one of Britain's most famous drummers along with Ringo Starr and Phil Collins. The bird's drumming serves an important function because the Great Spotted Woodpecker realises it can't sing and doesn't attempt to. Sadly, the same can't be said for Ringo Starr and Phil Collins. Instead, its drumroll is a percussive proclamation that hammers home the message to other male woodpeckers to stay away from its territory in the treetops. It also serves to drum up support from female woodpeckers in the vicinity who may be looking for a pied partner.

This 'song' may not be as sweet as the melodies sung by the Robin or Blackbird but it still gets its message across. Indeed, the drumming can carry the bird's message across half a mile of countryside, with a male broadcasting up to 600 drumrolls a day. Each drumroll consists of up to 10-16 beats, typically in a one second burst. Of course, if I did attempt to take my frustrations out on a tree in a similar way, I'd suffer some form of concussion - but woodpeckers are specially designed to avoid this by having shock absorbent tissue between the base of their bill and their strengthened skulls to cushion the impact.

Their incredible beak is more than just a drumstick, it's also a pickaxe which allows them to chip away at trunks to excavate their own nest hole; and a chisel with which the woodpecker prises open tree bark to find food. That mighty beak is a formidable weapon too, which sends other birds on the peanut feeder scarping pretty sharpish. And Great Spotted Woodpeckers are becoming more greatly spotted, as it is a British bird which is actually increasing in numbers. The pecker's population leapt in the seventies and nineties, with some estimates stating they have increased by 300% over the past five decades. The availability of dead wood thanks to Dutch Elm Disease and the availability of peanuts thanks to British bird lovers being among of the reasons for this increase. See, I ended the article on a positive note, maybe I won't break my New Year's resolution after all. Well done to me, I'm feeling upbeat about the future. Now to put the kettle on, put my feet up, and turn on the news...



THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST



Matthew 3: 13 - 17 NIV

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."