

MAY 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



7 May 10:am "A Special Choral Commemorative Service for the Coronation" This will be followed by light refreshments in the vicarage garden. **All are welcome**, and if you would like to join us for refreshments it would be helpful to

send an email to:

office@steyningparishchurch.org

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist (Except 7 and 14 May)
(21 May Music Group Eucharist)

6:00pm Evening Service (21 May Choral Evensong)
(NB No Reflections during May)

St James's

10:30am Second Sunday Family Service Rogationtide - see box below

Fourth Sunday Holy Communion BCP

Wednesdays at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

11:30am Midweek Eucharist

14 May 10:30am The Churches Together Rogationtide service on the cricket field at Ashurst. People are encouraged to bring a picnic and if possible a garden chair to sit on. (Village Hall if wet.)

18 May 7:00pm Sung Eucharist on Ascension Day at Steyning

Parish Office Address:

Penfold Hall, Church Street,

Steyning BN44 3YB

Tel: 813276

office@steyningparishchurch.org

www.steyningparishchurch.org

PASTORAL LETTER



Dear Friends,

- *How many Anglicans does it take to change a light bulb?*
- *Change?!*

You may have heard the joke before. Members of the Church of England are famous for 'small C' conservatism. Anglican worship, at its best, is reassuringly familiar and marks a continuity with the past, especially when we sometimes use the Tudor language of the Book of Common Prayer, first drafted by Archbishop Cranmer as long ago as 1549. Most of our worship in both of our churches is relatively formal and liturgical, although some of us may remember how controversial it was when modern language liturgy was first introduced in the 1970s, however much it may seem normal now. But there have been many changes over the years too. While most of the arches in our churches are many hundreds of years old, the arrangement of fittings and furniture has changed radically.

This month we keep the Feast of Pentecost and we are reminded how the Holy Spirit is, above all, an agent of change. Our plans for the future – at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's and at St James's – will not necessarily involve sweeping changes, but they will call for flexibility and adaptability as our church councils continue to consider how God is calling us to rise to challenges of our current decade, how we can best continue to serve our town and village, and how we continue to attract people of all ages to worship with us. This will sometimes mean doing new things, without necessarily letting go of the old.

Our service in Steyning to celebrate the Coronation at the start of May is a good example of that – in being different from what we usually do but with most of the music being traditional. Please invite your friends to that – and to our ecumenical Rogationtide service, outdoors (weather permitting) on the Cricket Field in Ashurst the next weekend. Both of these services will be followed by the chance to socialise and share refreshments together and invite new people – including your own friends or family – to join us.

fr Mark

FROM THE EDITOR:

As we acknowledge the huge impact on everyone in Ukraine now that this war is in its second year, our thoughts and prayers continue to be with them all, and their leaders. We hold before God those families who have found refuge within Steyning and Ashurst including all those who worship with us.

Have you noticed the new feel of the magazine? It is now printed in our office under the clever supervision of our parish administrator, Pat. Each magazine therefore costs less than when commercially printed, and I think it looks very good indeed. I hope you agree. Any comments sent in will all be read and considered, because your thoughts are valuable. I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those who beaver away quietly to get this magazine out into the community and beyond. There are the proofreaders, the many deliverers - some go door-to-door, others envelope and send it out by post or others take them to distribution points, care homes etc. A large team work so well together, and to its many members, I say THANK YOU.

As always, the address for your articles , pictures etc:

steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

PARISH REGISTERS

BAPTISM

Nathan William Smith 6 April 2023.

ASCENSION DAY SUNG EUCHARIST

18 May @ 7:00pm

It is on this day that we remember that Jesus was received in heaven, and we celebrate with a sung Eucharist service.

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 MAY

Monday 1 May Philip and James, Apostles

Almighty Father, whom truly to know is eternal life: teach us to know your Son Jesus Christ as the way, the truth, and the life; that we may follow the steps of your holy Apostles Philip and James, and walk steadfastly in the way that leads to your glory; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 7 May The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday 14 May The Sixth Sunday of Easter

**Monday 15 May Matthias the Apostle
Rogation Day**

Almighty God, who in the place of the traitor Judas chose your faithful servant Matthias to be of the number of the Twelve: preserve your Church from false apostles and, by the ministry of faithful pastors and teachers, keep us steadfast in your truth; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Tuesday, Wednesday 16, 17 May Rogation Days

Thursday 18 May Ascension Day

Grant, we pray almighty God, that as we believe your only-begotten Son our Lord Jesus Christ to have ascended into the heavens, so we in heart and mind may also ascend and with him continually dwell; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Sunday 21 May The Seventh Sunday of Easter
(Sunday after Ascension Day)**

Sunday 28 May Pentecost (Whit Sunday)

Wednesday 31 May The Visit of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth

Mighty God, by whose grace Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary and greeted her as the mother of the Lord: look with favour on your lowly servants that, with Mary, we may magnify your holy name and rejoice to acclaim her Son our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

PRAYERS FOR THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES 111



O GOD, who providest for thy people by thy power, and rulest over them in love: Vouchsafe so to bless thy Servant our King, that under him this nation may be wisely governed, and thy Church may serve thee in all godly quietness; and grant that he being devoted to thee with his whole heart, and persevering in good works unto the end, may, by thy guidance, come to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



O GOD the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Saviour, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions. Take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatsoever else may hinder us from godly union and concord: that, as there is but one Body, and one Spirit, and one hope of our calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all; so we may henceforth be all of one heart, and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



ALMIGHTY God, who rulest over all the kingdoms of the world, and dost order them according to thy good pleasure: We yield thee unfeigned thanks, for that thou wast pleased, as on this day, to set thy Servant our Sovereign Lord, King CHARLES, upon the Throne of this Realm. Let thy wisdom be his guide, and let thine arm strengthen him; let truth and justice, holiness and righteousness, peace and charity, abound in his days; direct all his counsels and endeavours to thy glory, and the welfare of his subjects; give us grace to obey him cheerfully for conscience sake, and let him always possess the hearts of his people; let his reign be long and prosperous, and crown him with everlasting life in the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

From the Church of England

APOLOGIES.

I apologise to both Sister Andrew and Sister Patrick because in last month's magazine I published that Sister Andrew led the Croft Meadow service. It was indeed Sister Patrick.

Editor



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

There are those in positions of responsibility who care for the people of God, and those who are waiting for the call to serve and those who need ears to hear their call...

There are those who bring violence and distress over whom we have no control, and those who concern us and in need of the right blessing and direction...

There are those whose decisions will mean life or death for others; may they see clearly what they should decide and act with honest hearts...

There are those who are bewildered by these weird times; those who struggle to fulfil their duties of caring and healing, and those who must hand the responsibility for their own well-being to the skills of others...

And let us pray for ourselves, that we may be given the wisdom and love in our hearts to become true servants of our God and share with others the blessings that He provides in such abundance.



THE HOLY SPIRIT

The front cover is a mosaic depiction of a dove descending, and the dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. As the reading from Acts tells us, it was at Pentecost that the Holy Spirit came to the disciples and gave them the skills and courage necessary for them to be witnesses of Christ. The book of Acts helps us to understand the continual role of the Holy Spirit in Paul's life, and our lives, and I have read more than the given passage before I dared to put pen to paper to try to say something about the Holy Spirit. Acts teaches us that God is interested in change, and more specifically He's interested in changing each one of us by the power of the Holy Spirit in us.

At that first Pentecost the disciples were together when a sound like a mighty wind blowing came down from heaven, and what appeared to be tongues of fire settled on their heads. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in many different languages. Languages they had never learnt before. A crowd gathered and listened to the disciples as they preached the gospel and praised God. Peter stood up and preached - inspired by the Holy Spirit, because he converted 3000 people that day. Change happened, and the disciples were no longer confused; now they understood God's plan; now they were no longer timid and hiding away. Peter, who two months earlier, had been so afraid that he denied even knowing Jesus, was now speaking to a crowd with a confidence that God the Holy Spirit gave to him. Change happened to the crowd of 3000 all of whom came to faith and were baptised. We know very little about this crowd, but as Jerusalem was full of people come to celebrate the Festival of Pentecost, it is quite possible that they were agricultural workers who had travelled quite a distance to celebrate the Jewish festival of Harvest (Shavuot). We do know that they went away afterwards at peace with God and assured that Jesus was their Saviour.

The Holy Spirit can change us. I think this is a very hard concept for us to grasp. Today we have groups to help us change our shapes, our habits, our mindsets, etc, or maybe we say we don't need to change now; we haven't needed any help to change anything these past years, so what's all this about a Spirit that can change me?

I need the Holy Spirit in me to help me to become a more Jesus-like person doing more Jesus-like things, because I need to change deep in my soul to be a better

person. I cannot begin to understand the workings of my soul or of the Holy Spirit, but I do know that it is only the Holy Spirit who can abide in my soul and keep it well oiled.

The Pentecost story in Acts was a one off event for the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples, but for us, today, it won't look like or sound like a mighty wind, or anything spectacular. But the Holy Spirit comes and works inside us quietly through reading the Bible, listening to others, praying and joining in the church services and the Eucharist. He increases our faith and our love of God and so our love for one another.

Whilst Jesus was here on earth he was bound by time and space - he was limited to being in one place at a time. He then ascended into heaven - he re-entered heaven - and sat beside God. He then sent the Holy Spirit to help those whom he had left behind to carry on his work of the love of the Father and the self-giving of the Son.

There are many parts of our church services where we are reminded about the work of the Holy Spirit. At baptism we receive the Spirit of God who promises faithfully to be with us and comfort us on our life's journey. "The Lord the giver of life" is what we say in the Nicene Creed. The set prayers for the period Ascension to Pentecost in Common Worship refer to the Holy Spirit and asks for the Holy Spirit to be amongst us as we pray, and to send the sevenfold gifts to dwell in us.

*Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire
And lighten with celestial fire;
Thou the anointing Spirit art
Who dost thy sevenfold gifts impart. Veni Creator Spiritus*

At confirmation the Bishop lays hands on, and anoints the candidates saying, "Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them: the Spirit of wisdom and understanding; the Spirit of counsel and inward strength; the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness; and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord."

These gifts are the life of the Church, enabling all to change and to grow to be more Jesus-like. The work of the church and the work of the Holy Spirit are one.

Happy Birthday Church!

Chris Fitton

TIME TO REFLECT

*Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me*

*Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me*

Melt me, mold me

Fill me, use me

*Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me*

*Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me*

*Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me*

Melt me, mold me

Fill me, use me

*Spirit of the Living God
Fall afresh on me*

PENTECOST COLLECT

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit; grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen

COMMUNITY

COFFEE

**Do come and join us on
Wednesday mornings any time
between 10 and 11.30.**

Although several of our visitors go across to the Church in time for the Wednesday service, there are always plenty of people wishing to chat until the coffee mugs are empty.



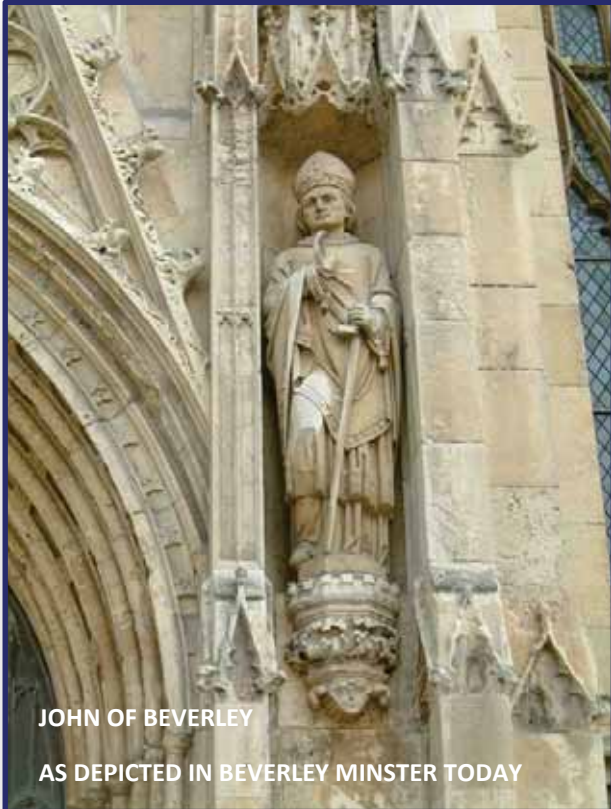
Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team

**COME IN ... PLEASE
JOIN THE TEAM FOR A COFFEE OR TEA AND A CHAT ON
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS
10-11:30 IN THE PENFOLD HALL**

SAINT OF THE MONTH

JOHN OF BEVERLEY, BISHOP OF YORK (c648-721)

Born at Harpham in Humberside, John studied at Canterbury under Adrian the Abbot. On returning to Yorkshire he became a monk at the Community in Whitby under St Hilda. According to the Venerable Bede, he was renowned for his preaching and for his erudition in expounding Holy Scripture.



In 687 he was consecrated Bishop of Hexham in Northumberland by Theodore, Archbishop of Canterbury, and in 705 he was translated to the Bishopric of York, the most important bishopric in the Northern Province. Bede says that John was diligent in visiting, was considerate of the poor and attentive in the training of ordinands. Bede himself was ordained both deacon and priest by John.

After twelve years at York John resigned the bishopric, in 718, and retired to a monastery which he had founded at Beverley. He died there on 7 May 721 which is kept as his feast day. He was canonised by Pope Benedict IX in 1037. Many miracles are ascribed to him and King Edward I was a devotee. In 1295 the King established a chantry in Beverley Minster in the saint's honour.

The shrine was destroyed in 1541 on the orders of Henry VIII. In 1738 when there was a re-ordering of the Minster the saint's relics were re-interred with a stone marking the spot engraved "Here lies the body of St John of Beverley, Founder of this church, Bishop of Hexham AD 687-705, Bishop of York AD 705-718. He was born at Harpham and died at Beverley AD 721".

A procession is held annually on his feast day starting at Harpham and ending with a service in the Minster.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Pause for Thought from Reverend Aubin de Gruchy

I notice a few days ago that the Redruth Baptist Church had carried a huge cross up to the top of Carn Brea before Easter as they have done for the last 60 years. It reminded me of a story based on something that happened in an American city, but I have changed the names and places!

A little lad was lost in Redruth. He was found by a helpful policeman who asked him where he lived. He didn't know. He asked him if he knew the address.

"Do you have a phone number we can call?"

He didn't know.

He asked him if it was near Tesco.

The boy wasn't sure.

Near the High School?

He didn't know.

Near the football ground?

He didn't know? Near the hospital?

He didn't know.

Suddenly the little boy's face lit up with a brain wave.

"Take me to the cross on the hill, and I can find my way home from there!"

Over Easter, as in many places, a cross is raised on the top of Carn Brea. "Take me to the cross on the hill, and I can find my way home from there!"

Lord, we thank you for the reminder that at Easter time you turned things around to make the cross a symbol of hope rather than a symbol of fear. Thank you that as we look at the empty cross it reminds us how much you love us; That we don't need to be afraid because you will help us find our way. And as we look to the cross it helps us to be at peace within ourselves, with others and with you.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

*Sent in by Fr Ray Jones
Revd Aubin de Gruchy is at Truro School*

SAMS

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. Do come and join us.

Our next meeting:

Date: Tuesday 30 May

Fr Mark will give a talk:

"Fr Mark and the Meaning of Life"

Doors open at 3:45 for 4:00 start

Any enquiries please to Leonard Warner
(01903 812752)

PRAYER POINTS FOR MAY

The King, our country and all its leaders

The Royal Family

All those taking part in the coronation service on May 6

All organising parties and celebrations in Steyning

For families struggling with money, food and general living; the continued good work of the Community Fridge in the cottage

For all young people preparing for any exams at school, university or work

For the beauty of Steyning and the river

For all who live and work on Hills Road



TIP OF THE MONTH

Now the weather is warming up and mostly dry there are lots of jobs to do in the garden which is coming back to life after the long winter. To encourage more wild-life I have an upturned old dustbin lid filled with water, pebbles and some pondweed. Maybe get the children involved with making a bug box using any old bits and pieces lying around in your garage or shed, or use small lengths of tree or bamboo prunings. The container can be as simple as bending some chicken wire into a cylinder.

Jackie Flowers-Leek

DOES IT MATTER?

It appears that nowadays we are supposed to call 21 May the Seventh Sunday after Easter. However, it will probably not surprise you if I say that I will think of it as the Sunday after Ascension. I don't know why they have changed it, but it does seem there might be a conspiracy to downgrade Ascension Day, which is the only one of the Four Great Festivals not to be on a Sunday - and for me, a non-working day. You may be old enough to remember schools going to church on Ascension Day and then having that as an extra day off.

Years ago I remember a Bishop who actually seemed to know what the church is for and would go about seeing it was done; (in other words he said what I thought!) He wrote a little pamphlet book called "Moments that Matter" aimed at helping parishes and their priests care for ordinary people without being interfered with by what are now called, I think, "line managers". I think of this Bishop now because I would classify the Sunday after Ascension, like most of life, as a Moment that **Doesn't** Matter.

After all, most of us live ordinary hum-drum lives which are punctuated by Occasions in the Calendar. The Apostles must have felt a bit deflated after the Ascension; nothing happened! We know they only had to wait ten days for the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost; but they weren't to know that. I can just picture them sitting at the table in the upper room in gloomy silence, not knowing what to do or say, what to expect next; moments when nothing seemed to matter.

Which is why I am sad that the old "ordinary" title of "after Ascension" has been discarded, because it reminds me that God is there for me on all the ordinary dull days; He is not just a God for the Special Occasions, but an everyday God for always, which is probably when we need Him most

Senex



7 May 10:am "A Special Choral Commemorative Service for the Coronation" This will be followed by light refreshments in the vicarage garden. **All are welcome**, and if you would like to join us for refreshments it would be helpful to send an email to: office@steyningparishchurch.org

PENTECOST IS AN EVENT

Hebrew history - Pentecost is historically and symbolically related to the Jewish harvest festival of Shavuot, which commemorates God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus.

Church history - Pentecost commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus after His resurrection celebrated at Easter. Pentecost is described as the "Birthday of the Church" because it was the time that the disciples began their ministry of telling people about Jesus. On this special day the first people were converted and believed; about 3000 people. The Pentecostal Christians derive their name from this biblical event. This feast-time may also be known as Whit Sunday or Whitsun. The colour associated with Pentecost is red reminding us of what looked like tongues of fire on the disciple's heads. Perhaps red could be worn to church at Pentecost to help us remember it is the birthday of the church as well as the invisible fire of faith that burns inside us that is a gift from the Holy Spirit.

If you were to give the Holy Spirit a colour what would it be?

CHURCHES TOGETHER BRING YOU CHRISTIAN AID COFFEE MORNING



SATURDAY 20 MAY

PENFOLD HALL

10:30 - 12:30

COME AND BUY:

BEAUTIFUL QUALITY PLANTS;

HAND MADE CARDS;

HOME MADE CAKES

**SIT AND CHAT AND ENJOY OUR FRESH COFFEE AND TEA WITH
DELICIOUS HOME MADE CAKES, BISCUITS AND SAVOURIES.**

**For further information and offers to help or to make cakes (MUCH NEEDED)
please contact Elizabeth Brown 01903 817144**

PLANTS OF THE GARDEN FROM THE BIBLE



FLAX (LINUM USITATISSIMUM)

USITATISSIMUM means 'most useful' and is a good description of one of the Bible plants used for food and fibre.

Flax is planted in the winter in the Middle East and flowers in late Spring. Flax is one of the most beautiful crops when flowering, with beautiful light blue flowers that open only in the morning. It is often planted as an ornamental. Linen fabric is made from the cellulose fibres that grow inside the stalks of the Flax plant. Linen had more than a few uses in the Bible, the most common, clothing. It was also used for making wicks, shrouds, ship sails and measuring lines.



LILY OF THE FIELD (ANEMONE CORONARIA)

Wild field flowers in Palestine are almost certainly the anemones that Jesus referred to as "Lilies of the field". These beautiful wild flowers can still be found near Lake Galilee. The Anemone is one of the first flowers to appear in early Spring. About a foot tall it has bright coloured flowers - white, red purple etc. They produce an abundant amount of pollen and attract several different insects.

GARDEN TIPS FOR MAY

1. Tie in Rambling and Climbing Roses. Laying the stems horizontally will help to produce more flowers.
2. Prune Spring-flowering shrubs after flowering.
3. Tidy Lavender plants, cutting off old flower heads and about 2.5cm of the current years' growth.
4. Prune out overcrowded and dead stems of early flowering Clematis (c. alpina, c. cirrhosa, c. macropetala, c. armandii) after flowering.
5. Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other Spring-flowering bulbs.
6. Lift Forget-me-nots to prevent heavy self seeding and reduce spreading.
7. Continue dividing herbaceous border perennials to improve vigour and create new plants.
8. Divide established clumps of Hostas as they come into growth.

The garden changes daily this time of year. Make sure you take a stroll daily soaking up the joys and goodness—and a few disappointments !!

Robert Hill Snook



THE ARTS SOCIETY

The Madonna, Fanny Cornforth The Magdalen, and the Femme Fatale

A talk by Daphne Lawson Monday 15 May at 10am

This talk explores the role of Victorian Women through Pre-Raphaelite paintings. Idealised images of women are seen in stark contrast to the fallen woman epitomised by that daughter of Steyning: Fanny Cornforth.

Fanny's relationship with Dante Gabriel Rossetti was as his muse and lover and her beauty transformed his art forever. Although he moved on to his Femme Fatale, Janey Morris, Fanny remained his companion until his death.

Daphne Lawson has a BA in Art History from London University and an MA from the University of Canterbury on Degas's Public and Private Spectacle. Until 2021 she was the full time Art History Lecturer for The Bader International Study Centre, Herstonceux Castle. There she taught courses and programmes ranging from Greek Sculpture, French Impressionism, European Romanticism and Pre-Raphaelite Painting, through to Contemporary British Art.

Free to members; visitors £10 donation

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, BN443XZ

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Steyning Church Flowers in MAY

6 and 13 May Elizabeth Brown

The church looked beautiful at Easter and I wish to thank all who helped to make

this possible, including those who worked on the Easter

Garden.



Carol McKechnie

SUNDAY COFFEE

9.30 am SERVICE

Could you join the team of Coffee Helpers on the 2nd Sunday each month?

Since we re-introduced the AFTER THE 9.30 COFFEE TIME, we have been most encouraged by the many people who stay for refreshments and chat. Our lovely team of coffee makers and helpers look after us with their care and smiles. All the Sundays have a full team except the second Sunday in the month. We do need some helpers to make sure we can always provide refreshments. **Please could you help us?**

Wendy

THE STEYNING SOCIETY

The Steyning Society

Friday 19th May at 19:00 for 19:30

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, William Hogarth - an English painter and engraver (1697-1764)

by Hilly Sloan

Hilly is a professional tour guide and historian. She is a keen walker and lively speaker.

The doors are open at 19:00 and there will be wine or sparkling elderflower (monetary donations welcome) on arrival. There will also be a Bring and Buy table with Books, CD's, DVD's and Puzzles.

Talk will begin at 19:30.

Free to members and £3 guests
All very welcome to attend.

GLORY HALLELUJAH!

Summer Concert Saturday 10th June 2023 at 7.30 pm

That's the title of Chanctonbury Chorus' summer concert. The music is wide-ranging, as you might expect if you have been to recent concerts by the Chorus.

Glory Hallelujah! features choral and organ music from the last 300 years and includes Handel's *Zadok the Priest* and *The King Shall Rejoice*, written for the coronation of George II in 1727, Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*, John Rutter's *Creation's Alleluia* and Julia Ward Howe's famous 1861 abolitionist anthem, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and Poulenc's 1961 masterpiece *Gloria*.

Tickets cost £15 and as usual the easiest source from which to buy them is Canon Nigel after most morning services before the concert. Come and enjoy a little glory and enjoy the praise of Hallelujah!

MATTHIAS THE APOSTLE

Very little is known about Matthias but in Acts it quite clearly gives the account of the extended disciple family casting lots between two of them to replace the disgraced Judas; Matthias and Joseph Barsabbas. After earnest prayer Matthias won the vote to join the Eleven, and he therefore has the distinction of being the only Disciple who was not chosen by Jesus. This event happened after the Ascension of Jesus to the heavens, and Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples.

There is no further information in the New Testament. Other writings tell of his great ministry because it is said he was with Jesus from his baptism by John, but places and events are confused. As is how he died.

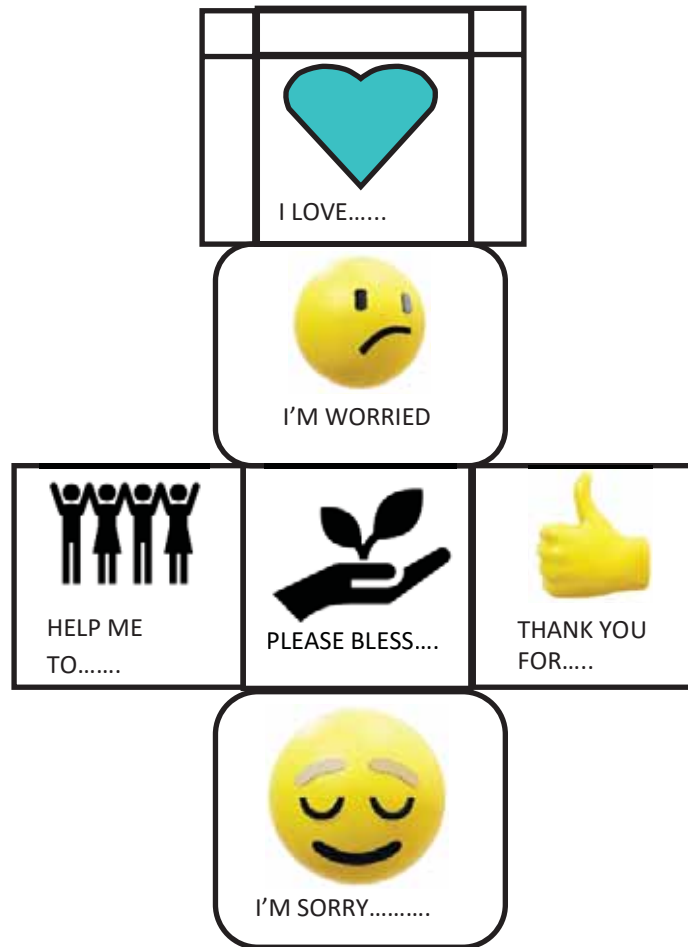
ANAGRAM FOR MAY

**The anagram for May is:
PENTECOST**

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

This is no CONTEST but OPEN to all. A POET could do well!!

JUST FOR FAMILIES



PRAYER CUBE:

Colour in the cubes, cut out and fold in the lines then shape into a cube. Gently glue the flaps to keep in place.

ROLL your cube, and pray about the side that lands uppermost.

HELP little ones with a prayer so everyone learns.

TALK TOGETHER

Dear God, I'm thankful for all you give:

For food, for love, and a place to live.

I thank you for my family too, and I want you to know

That I love you too! Amen

RECIPE FOR MAY

PIMM'S ETON MESS

Ingredients

400 g strawberries, hulled
4 tbsp. prosecco
1 tbsp. caster sugar
250 ml double cream
1 tbsp. icing sugar
4 tbsp. Pimm's
100 g meringue nests, crumbled



Method

Step 1

Quarter the strawberries and add them to a bowl with Prosecco and caster sugar. Mix well and set aside for about an hour, to allow the strawberries to soften slightly and soak up the Prosecco flavour.

Step 2

Whip the cream with the icing sugar and Pimm's until it reaches medium stiff peaks.

Step 3

Stir through 3/4 of the strawberries and the strawberry-infused Prosecco and 3/4 of the crumbled meringues.

Step 4

Divide between four glasses and top with remaining crumbled meringue and strawberries.

Beckie writes:

I tried to think of something to fit with the Coronation and the bank holidays.

A classic, but with the bottles popping to celebrate, it seemed fitting to have fizz and Pimm's.



NIGHTINGALE

My bottom desk drawer is a graveyard, the final resting place for the obsolete. A broken calculator, foreign coins, buttons and a Maxell C90 cassette given to me a few years ago. I had no means of playing it until I recently discovered my clunky cassette deck hiding in the garage.

An accompanying note says the tape contains “the song of a Nightingale in the

churchyard of St John sub Castro, Lewes, spring 1985”. It was recorded by a lady called Barbara from an upstairs window in neighbouring Lancaster Street. After some dusting, re-wiring, buzzing and hissing the sweet sound that swirled from my speakers transported me back over three decades to a time when Reagan negotiated with Thatcher, Paul Hardcastle’s na-na-na-Nineteen topped the charts and a Nightingale sang in St John sub Castro.

To be frank, Nightingales aren’t much to look at. Small brown birds; a Robin without the redbreast. But when they open their beak there’s a Susan Boyle-like transformation. These drab birds become the world’s most celebrated vocalists. For centuries, poets have praised their performance. Homer, Shakespeare, Coleridge, Wordsworth, Clare, Keats, Dylan and Cohen. Shelley claimed, “A poet is a Nightingale who sits in darkness, and sings to cheer its own solitude with sweet sounds”. Trust young Percy Bysshe to believe the bird was wallowing in its own self-pity. The Nightingale’s song is actually both an aggressive war-cry and a sweet, structured sonnet. A hymn to the silence in the hope of enticing a passing female.

The Nightingale’s optimistic warbles have inspired everyone from the late Vera Lynn to Roxy Music. A BBC recording of a bird singing in Oxted in 1942 inadvertently captured the roar of Lancasters, Wellingtons, Stirlings and Halifaxes passing overhead laden with bombs destined for Germany. The contrast between innocence and beauty, terror and destruction make it the most powerful sound I have ever heard.

Nightingales will sing by day but are most famous for never letting up when the sun sets, their beautiful phrasing carrying loud and clear over the muffled grunts and hoots of other nocturnal animals. Once the Nightingale has hooked a partner his nocturnal performances will stop, so there’s a narrow window to hear them. Our Nightingales spend the winter south of the Sahara in a wide belt between Senegal and Kenya, usually returning in late April.

Due to habitat destruction the UK population of this amazing bird – so entwined in our cultural heritage – is in a steep decline. The sound of a Nightingale singing in the centre of Lewes may have been relegated to the bottom drawer of history but we are blessed to still have this bird performing in our Sussex woodlands. We must never let their song of hope be silenced forever.

Michael Blencowe



The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.