

Steyning and Ashurst

**JUNE
2023**

FREE



**Church
Magazine**

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

Vicar: The Revd Mark Heather LLB BA

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CHURCH SERVICES

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist (Music Group Eucharist on 3rd Sunday)

6:00pm Evening Service (Reflections on 1st Sunday - see below)
(Choral Evensong on 3rd Sunday)

St James's

10:30am Second Sunday Family Service

Fourth Sunday Holy Communion

Wednesdays at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

11:30am Midweek Eucharist

Reflections is a quiet, evening service. This month it is held on Sunday, June 4, and is entitled *Reflections on The Trinity*.

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Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

PASTORAL LETTER



Dear Friends,

Whilst it might not have the same significance to family and cultural life as Christmas or Easter, the Festival of the Holy Trinity, also called Trinity Sunday, is a significant reminder of what Christians believe. It may not warrant a special family meal or a public holiday. Indeed its history isn't as long as the other festivals – being inaugurated during the Middle Ages, with origins that partly stem from England under Thomas Becket (Archbishop of Canterbury from 1162 until 1170) who chose the Sunday after Pentecost for his consecration as bishop.

If your eyes are tempted to glaze over at the very thought of the Holy Trinity, the idea is essentially simple: that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equal in honour and majesty; three persons but equally God. Beyond that it's probably easier to think of what the Trinity DOES rather than exactly what it IS; and we are reminded of that, Sunday by Sunday, as we recite our ancient creeds. Our Editor reflects on the mysterious nature of the Trinity on page 6 of this issue. 'If you understood him, God would not be God', wrote St Augustine (354-430).

In the Diocese of Chichester Trinity-tide is the time when priests are ordained, and this year our prayers can be focussed especially on (the Revd) Caroline Armitage, Assistant Curate at Partridge Green and West Grinstead, who is of those to be priested by Bishop Ruth at St Mary's Horsham on 3 June. On Trinity Sunday she will preside at the Eucharist for the first time. As our new priests in the diocese prepare for that important vocational next step, let us pray that they will receive the gifts of God's Holy Spirit, through Jesus the Son who came to restore us, so that all creation may reflect the inherent glory that has existed since the beginning – when God our Father observed that everything he had made was so very good (Genesis 1:31).

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.

As I write we are all looking forward to the warmer weather and to see which plants have survived the recent extremes of weather. There will be much to enjoy in June. This magazine tries to bring you a mix of Church information, personal reflections, general interest and community events. Do please send in your contributions because what you do/think/see is of much interest to our readers.

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

steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

*Reflections
on the Trinity*

Picture by Christine Aubrey



Three in one
"For there are three that testify: the Spirit, the water and the blood;
and the three are in agreement" (John 5:7-8)

Sunday 4 June, 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

4 May Martin Charles Baldwin Toomey
(d. 15 April 2023)

12 May Margaret Ettie Goodman
(d. 20 April 2023)

INTERMENT

3 May Peter John Major (d. 20 January 2023)

HOLY MATRIMONY

22 April Nathan David Lionel Hunt and
Charlotte Louise (Charlie) Coe

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 JUNE

Sunday 4 June

Trinity Sunday

Thursday 8 June

The Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion (Corpus Christi)

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

Sunday 11 June

The First Sunday after Trinity

Monday 12 June

Barnabas the Apostle

Bountiful God, giver of all gifts, who poured out your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas and gave him grace to encourage others: help us, by his example, to be generous in our judgements and unselfish in our service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Friday 16 June

Richard, Bishop of Chichester 1253

Most merciful redeemer, who gave to your bishop Richard a love of learning, a zeal for souls and a devotion to the poor: grant that, encouraged by his example, we may know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day.

Sunday 18 June

The Second Sunday after Trinity

Saturday 24 June

The Birth of John the Baptist

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

Sunday 25 June

The Third Sunday after Trinity

Thursday 29 June

Peter and Paul, Apostles

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

TRINITY SUNDAY

June brings Trinity Sunday, and it is right that we take time after the Ascension and Pentecost to consider God as Father Son and Holy Spirit. I wonder what you might say if I asked you to tell me about The Trinity? The following is a very personal way to try to make sense of Who God Is and explain it to you. Difficult, but here goes!

I hope that at sometime in your life you might have found yourself standing transfixed in front of a wonderful piece of art; you become oblivious of those around you; time stands still; you are completely silent; the art speaks to you so personally through its use of colour or shape or form or application or medium. There is a dialogue going on that affects you very deeply and creates a partnership. As you eventually leave and come out into the world again you meet me and I ask you to tell me about that picture. Can you find the words to describe it to me so I can have a similar experience? Can you convey to me the depth of colour, or the use of the brush strokes, or the interaction of the forms or shapes? Can you describe to me the deep love or emotion you feel? And so on. Probably not. A week later you go back to look again. And you are again caught up in a dialogue with the art, but the inner conversation is probably different this time, not because the art has changed, but something in you is gradually absorbing the past conversation and you have changed.

The Holy Trinity is rather like that art work for me. I need to sit and pray or meditate or contemplate. It is important to search for that threefold unity of love and find a dialogue there that will change my thoughts and my way of life, because God is Love. I find the picture of God as a trefoil does not speak to me of the mystery of God as One in Three, but I have used it as a front cover because it is the common symbol for The Trinity. God is not divided into three parts. When I think about Who God Is, I think of a dance of love that is The Father who created the world; the Son, Jesus, who came as a human to love us all personally, to teach us and to have dialogue with us; the Holy Spirit who brings that love that cannot be explained, but it flows from us, in us and through us. And changes us. Thus is the mystery of God who is for us, alongside us and within us.



Andrei Rublev's image invites us to be part of the stream of love flowing among the Father Son and Holy Spirit.

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

Pray for the Churches gathered throughout our world; may we all always rejoice in the diversity of cultures and people and so be united in our love of Jesus Christ and the Gospel with all people.

Pray for all people who do not feel God's love in their hearts.

Pray for an end to the ugliness and tragedy of war and racism; may the Spirit give wisdom and courage to all people, especially those in leadership positions.

O Holy Trinity, source of unity, justice and peace, we praise you!
Hear our prayer in this time of unrest. Your power changes hearts.
Give to us:

- understanding that puts an end to strife,
- mercy that quenches hatred,
- courage to seek justice
- forgiveness that overcomes vengeance.

Empower all people to live the law of love. Amen

GROWING THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH

Earlier this year, our church was invited by Bishop Martin to be one of eight in the diocese to partake in a programme known as Great is Thy Faithfulness, or alternatively (which we prefer) Growing the Household of Faith. The idea was for churches to be paired with another from a different deanery; in our case we are partnered with St Mary & St James in Littlehampton.

At first sight it seemed we had little in common with our partner parish, apart from both having an incumbent called Father Mark. Their worship style is much more Anglo-Catholic than ours, they are in a relatively deprived area and have little money – the main church building has many problems, including a lack of heating. But they have a younger and very friendly congregation. We were not sure exactly what our respective involvements would be; at the start Canon Jack Dunn, Canon Precentor at Chichester Cathedral and part of the diocesan Apostolic Life department, dismissed the idea that money would be involved; it was more to do with growing in faith rather than just numbers.



At the time of writing this we have had three sessions, each comprising videos, bible reflections, and other documents to be studied in our spare time, along with a meeting led by Canon Jack and involving small teams from each parish. Zoom meetings were planned originally, but we all preferred the idea of meeting in person so each of the parishes is taking turns in hosting. The three subjects dealt with so far are:

Collaborative Ministry;

Welcome, Inclusion and Worship;

and Teaching, Sharing and Learning.

As we have progressed through the course its value has become more and more apparent. We may have our own Five -Year Vision, and we know we do some things well, but the teaching has encouraged us to look outward, beyond our own horizons, to see how we might appear to outsiders, and, above all, to become more prayerful. Anybody who would like to know more, or to become involved, please speak to Fr Mark or the churchwardens. We can give you links to the videos and other course

material – we have already shared a couple of video links via the weekly bulletin. We are taking a collaborative approach to the bible reflection part, with our own discussions, to which any congregation member is invited.

Oh, and Collaborative Ministry, in case you were wondering, is challenging the traditional hierarchical structure of our parishes. Rather than trying to persuade individuals to do a particular job, to explore those individuals' gifts and wishes, and from those to provide a greater variety of worship and ministry.

Bill Thomson

PCC ELECTIONS FOR 2023/24

At the Annual Parochial Church Meetings held in April 2023, PCC members were elected as follows:

- Christine Aubrey, John Downe, Stephen Holliday, Judie Thomson, Liz Trundle, Derek Vine, Len Warner.

The following were elected to Deanery Synod and will be ex officio PCC members:

- John Edwards, Brian Hanson, Penny Warner.

Sarah Lavery and Bill Thomson were re-elected as churchwardens. Along with the Vicar, they also serve on the PCC as ex officio members.

There remain two vacancies on our PCC and one vacant seat on Deanery Synod.

“Before the creation of the world, the Father, Son and Spirit set their love upon us and planned to bring us to share and know and experience the Trinitarian life itself.

Unto this end the cosmos was called into being, and the human race was fashioned, and Adam and Eve were given a place in the coming of Jesus Christ, the Father’s Son himself, in and through whom the dream of our adoption would be accomplished.”

Baxter Kruger, The Shack Revisited

EASTER FLOWERS IN CHURCH



*With thanks,
Jim Lang for
these lovely
pictures.*

C O M M U N I T Y

C O F F E E

**Do come and join us on a
Wednesday morning 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 MORNING
10-11:30 IN THE PENFOLD HALL**

SAINT OF THE MONTH

BERNARD MIZEKI, CATECHIST & MARTYR (c1861-1896)

Bernard Mizeki was born in Mozambique in about 1861 and, at the age of twelve, left his home and went to Cape Town where for the next ten years he worked as a labourer. He lived in the slums but managed to rise above the squalor of his surroundings by attending evening classes after his day's work. The classes were held at an Anglican school run by the Cowley Fathers.



He became a Christian and was baptised in 1886. He showed an aptitude for languages and translated the Scriptures, prayer books and hymn books into the local African dialects.

After graduating, he accompanied Bishop Knight-Bruce to Mashonoland in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) to work as a lay catechist. He built a mission complex, grew crops and studied the local languages. In due course he opened a school for the local children and was much revered.

In 1896 there was a native uprising against the rule of Cecil Rhodes' British South African Company following famine and orders to kill infected cattle. Missionaries, regarded as agents of the Colonial power, were especially vulnerable and Mizeki was advised to flee but he refused to desert his converts or the complex.

On 18 June 1896 he was speared to death outside his hut. His wife and a mission worker went for help and, when some distance away, claimed to have seen a blinding light where he had been martyred and heard a rushing sound as though of many wings. His body was never found.

Mizeki's work bore fruit and, in 1899, an Anglican priest returned to the area and re-established the mission as well as a school. In the 1930s a chapel was built on the site of the martyrdom and he is honoured throughout the African Church and in the Church of England, being commemorated on 18 June.

TWO CORONATION MEMORIES

The King played a largely passive and silent part in Westminster Abbey. However in two places he gives voice to serving his people:

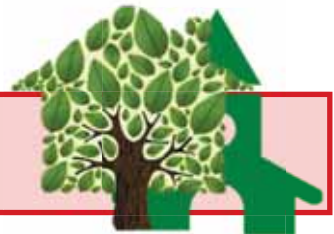
After Parry's "*I was Glad*" the King was greeted by a child, a Chapel Royal Chorister, "in the name of the King of Kings" and the King replied "In his name and after his example, I come not to be served but to serve."

The King's Prayer

God of compassion and mercy whose Son was sent not to be served but to serve, give grace that I may find in thy service perfect freedom and in that freedom knowledge of thy truth. Grant that I may be a blessing to all thy children, of every faith and conviction, that together we may discover the ways of gentleness and be led into the paths of peace.

PRAYER POINTS FOR JUNE

- Those being ordained as priests at Trinitytide including the Revd Caroline Armitage, to be priested by Bishop Ruth at St Mary's Horsham on 3 June.
- For all graduates; may they rejoice in their accomplishments and use their gifts and talents for the well-being of our society and world.
- For all students taking exams, and especially for those who find exam pressure difficult to manage.
- The new PCC as they develop the 5-Year Plan.
- Those taking home communion to the housebound in Steyning and Ashurst.
- The Croft Meadow service this month.
- The newly elected parish councillors.
- All who live and work on Abbey Road



TIP OF THE MONTH

Well done all the Christians who marched to Parliament in April to demand climate justice from our political leaders. We can add our support also by praying for local, national, international and global environmental issues and for all the many groups and organisations working so hard towards climate change before the world runs out of time to make vital differences for the future!

SUPPER PARTY TIME

About nine weeks ago we were all caught up in the dark doom of Holy Week with its plotting and treachery and cruelty and seeming disaster, ending with the dead silence of the Easter Vigil. But in all that agony there was a glimmer of light and hope on Maundy Thursday when we shared for a brief hour in the life-giving Lord's Supper. Not for long; there were other things first.

But now after all the joys of Eastertide and Ascension and the strength-giving coming of the Spirit to give life to the Church, we have at last a spare Thursday (8 June) and can rejoice in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper properly and the Calendar tells us it's Corpus Christi (Latin again = Body of Christ). Those of us who live in Sussex may well have visited the famous Flower Carpet in Arundel cathedral.

We are the Body of Christ (Paul said that). Bodies need to breathe and to be fed; and the Lord gives life to His Body with the Breath (Spirit) of God and feeds each one of us with food and drink for the soul.

We should never cease to be thankful (and amazed) that the Almighty God has chosen the simplest things to show us what He is doing for us; breathing, eating, drinking. Bread and wine, not caviar and champagne, just ordinary everyday stuff.

I remember a college mate of mine – he became a professor and cathedral Canon – saying "*if He had been born in Bethlehem Pennsylvania USA and not in Bethlehem Palestine he would have used coffee and doughnuts, not bread and wine!*"

Clever people have argued about what happens at the Lord's Supper and will probably still be doing so when the Last Trump sounds. You can look them all up and join in the philosophical arguments if you wish; my advice is "don't". It's all too important and too simple.

*His was the word that spake it
He took the bread and brake it
And what that word did make it
I do believe and take it.*

I think John Donne wrote that about 400 years ago. It says all that needs to be said for most of us

Hurrah, or if you prefer it ... Hallelujah!

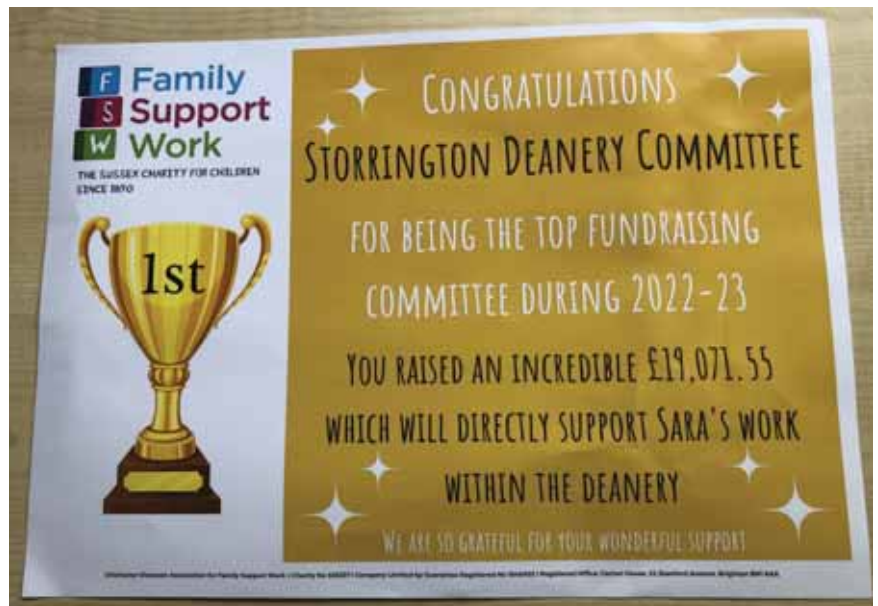
Senex

FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

CONGRATULATIONS

to all those who helped to make this possible, but especially our enormous thanks to Wendy and Sue, and all our Deanery committee who work so hard for FSW.

Editor, Vicar and Churchwardens



Our Deanery, the churches of Pulborough, Ashington, Thakeham and Sullington, Upper Beeding, West Chiltington, Storrington and ourselves, Steyning and Ashurst, were amazed and delighted to receive this “thank you” from FSW Head Office. Sara, our practitioner, is thrilled to know that her expanding work is supported.

We say a **huge thank you** to all of you who have contributed with your gifts for the food basket and monetary donations. As you can imagine, the food bank and heating money are much needed by our families.

Also, our **grateful thanks** to the Catering group for sharing the proceeds from the Quiz night, dividing everything between FSW and Christian Aid. The generous amount of £202.50 has been donated to the work of FSW.

We have various events planned for this summer where we look forward to seeing you.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 28 June: St Mary's Storrington Open Churchyard with a Strawberry Afternoon Tea, Churchyard Quiz Trail, Home produce and a Cake stall. Entrance £5 and children £2.50. All proceeds for FSW.

Wednesday 5 July: Open Garden - Dale Park House Open Garden, Arundel. All proceeds from event and refreshments for FSW. All details on our FSW Board in church.

Thank you for helping to look after our families.

Wendy and Sue

PUB, POETRY AND PERFORMANCE – ALL IN THE CHURCH

During April and May, the church was privileged to host two wonderful events organised by Steyning Bookshop. Both evenings attracted large audiences, many of whom don't usually come into the church and who were surprised to find a fully stocked bar produced by Keith Kempson of Riverside Brewery – 'it's the pub in the church' remarked one delighted punter!



The first event was an evening with Henry Normal, co-writer of award-winning films and TV shows such as *Philomena*, *The Royle Family* and *the Mrs Merton Show*. He can regularly be heard on BBC Radio 4 shows such as *A Normal Life*. Henry is VERY Funny. We were wiping away tears of laughter as he entertained us with stories, jokes and poetry. The evening, which also involved talented local poets who took the mic in the first half, was brilliantly co-ordinated by Steyning poet, Simon Zec.

The second event featured the work of Victor Neuberg. Neuberg was a poet and publisher who lived in Vine Cottage in Church Street in the 1920s. He set up the Vine Press and published books that reflect his love of local lore and landscape, illustrated with woodcuts, curious fonts and gold-embossed spines. On the 140th anniversary of his birth, we were treated to a wonderful event of words, music and beautiful video graphics led by Neuberg's biographer Justin Hopper. A special joy of the evening was to hear Caroline Neuberg reading some never-before heard poems of



her grandfather. The evening culminated with a beautiful and ethereal performance by Justin Hopper reading Neuberg's Sussex poems accompanied by the lilt of Sharron Kraus's recorder and vocals combined with the luminous landscape visuals created by videographic artist Wendy Pye.

We love working with our good friends at Steyning Bookshop and are delighted that they enjoy holding their events in our beautiful church. In October we hope to have Eilly Griffiths speaking about her new book in the Brighton Mysteries series.

SUMMER MAGIC!

SUMMER MAGIC!

Saturday 3 June 2023 4.30 - 5.30

Local groups **The Kaleidoscope Singers** and **Vocal Fusion Acapella** join forces to sing some glorious music by Whitacre, Gardner, Chilcott and Takach - a little known composer from America and arrangements of **Folk and Disney** in this hour long concert at **St Andrew & St Cuthman Church**.

Both award winning choirs bring you a highly moving and entertaining afternoon of music.

Tickets £8 from Steyning Bookshop, vocalfusionacapella.co.uk/p/junetickets/ or on the door. (cash or card)

We look forward to seeing you.

CHURCH LIGHTING



Do you recognise and remember our old church lighting?

When the new lights were installed it was possible for anyone to purchase the old chandeliers.

David Lawrence did just that, and here is a photograph showing off his "new" lighting over his dining table. It is much admired.

Very smart indeed David.

THE BIG ONE WENT WITH A BANG!



On Friday 21 April, Sarah Lavery and I joined with Sophie and David Littlejohns from St Peter's, Upper Beeding, and over 1400 Christians to march together to Parliament to demand climate justice from our political leaders. A whole range of different organisations, denominations and groups were involved including The Salvation Army, Young Christian Climate Network, Christian Climate Action, World Vision and many, many more.



Before the march, we gathered at St John's, Waterloo for a service at 12 noon. We were welcomed by the vicar, Canon Giles Goddard, then Tear Fund Director, Ruth Valerio, led us all in praying together, and singing new and old songs of worship. We joined in a wonderful Rhyme Reading of the Genesis story by Sam Hargreaves which we hope to share with you soon in Steyning. Archbishop John Sentamu offered an international perspective, naming the climate crisis "an offence against humanity" and emphasised the need to leave fossil fuels in the ground. He spoke about how the Church has a proud history of standing up for justice, and so we stand very much within our faith and tradition as we do so in this current crisis.



We then walked together to Westminster to join the many groups gathering there. On the way we stopped off at Shell HQ. The plan had been to read out and deliver a letter, sing Amazing Grace, and then move on. Sadly, despite prior information and assurance of our peaceful plans, the office refused to receive the letter. Archbishop Sentamu, who had been commissioned with the delivery, instead left it tucked under the revolving doors at the entrance.

Revd Dr Cate Williams wrote about the day: *"It seems to me that protests can sometimes tip over into being rooted in anger and fear. I wonder whether that is why some end in quite extreme places, out of the feeling that nothing else will make a difference. 'The Big One' felt like a very positive space, rooted more in love and hope, as is good and right. We need to campaign as there is no question that we need Westminster to pay attention and make robust policies that take the climate and nature crises seriously. To do so rooted in love and hope, with a feeling of positivity throughout, was fabulous. In our democratic system, it is only when politicians realise how many are concerned and that green policies will win them elections, that policy change will happen. We need to make our views known. This is not the only way to do so, we can also lobby our MPs locally. But this is a powerful and important way to make our voices heard together. We also slowly and quietly chip away at change in our churches and communities, via our commitment to the EcoChurch award scheme and our diocesan and national CofE 2030 carbon net zero goals. We all do what we can as we work and pray together for change."*

A recording of the whole day has been uploaded to YouTube including interviews with some of the bishops who were present: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v6OclOoAZ1Y>

Christine Aubrey

SPECTACULAR SANTA SEMANA IN SEVILLE

Seville is the fourth largest city in Spain. There are 115 churches including the Cathedral, the third largest church in the world behind St Peter's in Rome and St Paul's in London. And every Holy Week Seville plays host to a remarkable and moving series of processions.

Jill and I spent a few days in Seville and it included Palm Sunday. We arrived a couple of days before and the streets were already alive with the expectation of it. Palm branches against the backdrop of a purple cloth decorated balconies, the area around the Cathedral was festooned with folding chairs and crash barriers, we were given a complicated booklet showing how the multitude of processions would weave through even the narrowest of streets and the time when they were expected. It showed all the hallmarks of a city that every year planned meticulously. In those days before Palm Sunday we wandered through alleyways and into churches preparing for the week ahead.

Every church it seemed was taking part. We saw ornate and heavy-looking floats in every place, the tourists marvelling, the Sevillans standing in silent contemplation and



touching the handles or the elaborate metalwork or kissing the fabric that stretched to the ground.

All the churches in Seville have at least one and some have several of these giant 'floats' – the *pasos* – which carry on top of them representational tableaux of the various events of Holy Week and, inevitably in Spain, Mary. Gold pasos

feature Christ, and the silver ones Mary. But these are not designed for static adoration. The highlight for us (or one of them!) was seeing some of the wonderful processions for Holy Week taking the pasos to the streets so that everyone can see and take part and be caught up in the atmosphere, at once a celebration of centuries' old tradition and a devotional act.

We were leaving the day after Palm Sunday but if we had enjoyed the days before, Palm Sunday itself was an insight into a more public expression of spirituality than we would ever dare in our more restrained country. Those who went to worship were smartly dressed and even in the evening amongst the crowds that lined the processional routes elegance was the order of the day, children up late at night were everywhere, the boys in jackets and shorts, the girls in their best dresses.

Each paso is carried by a team of what look like rugby prop forwards hidden beneath a 'skirt' around the paso that reaches the floor. It takes 20 – 40 men to carry a paso, each of whom wears a distinctive headdress like one of the coal-tippers who were once a common sight on English streets. It helps them bear the weight of the supporting beams because each paso can weigh a ton and the men train for a year to be able to carry it. Injuries amongst the costaleros, those carrying the pasos, are common and a special wing of the hospital opens in Holy Week to deal with them.

The teams are rotated every hour and the floats are carried from each home church to the Cathedral where they enter by one door for a blessing from the Archbishop and exit by another door and return to their church. Some processions, including one that we saw, contain anywhere from a thousand to three thousand penitents of all ages who are dressed in white robes with pointed hats, through which only their eyes are visible. Some walk the route barefoot as an extra mark of penitence and some processions take as many as twelve hours to cover the route. Yes, at first sight the robes and the headgear of the penitents look like those of an infamous



American clan but they have absolutely nothing to do with that and what they wear dates from the 16th century, as do many of the figures they carry.

And so the evening came on that special Palm Sunday and we walked just a few yards down our street to a corner which soon filled with crowds. When the first paso – there are usually three in each procession – came into view in the narrow street the light was already fading. The night was transformed by the myriad of candles on the pasos or carried by the penitents. The bands played solemn music that, we were told, would be more solemn as the week went on, the choirs sang a capella, and the pasos passed so close that the crowds had to compress and hold their breath, and several hands stretched out to touch.

To see the precision with which the teams negotiate narrow streets and 90-degree turns is astonishing. They seem to rock in step, just marching feet visible, to the beat of a drum or a quietly spoken command, and the paso, carried by its unseen and unseeing team, sways gently into a different direction. Applause often greets the manoeuvre once the held breath is released. Wonderful to see. A moving, exhilarating and unforgettable way of marking each day in Holy Week.

Jill and Canon Nigel Hartley

STEYNING BOWL AWARDS



Fr Mark receives the Highly Commended Certificate for the Church Lighting Scheme from the Lord Lieutenant Lady Emma Barnard

The Steyning Society celebrates its 60th Anniversary with the Steyning Bowl Awards

There was a buzz around the Steyning Centre on Friday 21 April when the Steyning Society celebrated its 60th Anniversary with its AGM and an Awards evening. The Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex, Lady Emma Barnard was welcomed by the Chairman of the Steyning Society, Nick Bennett and guard

of honour from 1140 (Steyning) Squadron Air Cadets, commanded by Flight Lieutenant Paul Still.

Nick Bennett presented the Society's AGM's Annual Report outlining the year's events and the new committee and finances were approved. Tokens were presented to retiring members of the Society's committee - Jane Oxley and Ann Long with thanks for their contribution to the Society's work.

He introduced Lady Barnard who expressed her pleasure at attending the event and praised its work in looking after and helping to conserve the heritage of the town for the last 60 years. It was a significant achievement and one she respected and understood from her experience with Parham House and Park.

The Lord-Lieutenant presented the Awards which have been introduced by the Steyning Society to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee. Known as the Steyning Bowl Awards they honour those individuals, groups or businesses who have contributed major enhancements to the character and well-being of Steyning and support its

local community. The winner is presented with a wooden bowl which is held by them for a year and is then awarded again. The bowl was made and given by Peter Legge, a local craftsman. Two certificates are awarded - Highly Commended and the Certificate of Merit. Awards are made on the basis of nominations from Society members and from the public at large.

This year, **The Bowl** was awarded to Greening Steyning, Bramber and Beeding. This was received by Vicci Johnson on behalf of the various initiatives undertaken by the Greening Groups such as the BN44 Community Fridge and Repair Café.

Highly Commended certificates were awarded to Steyning Parish Church new internal and external church lighting, The Steyning Bookshop, The Steyning Festival, and John Stevenson for his work with Steyning Ukrainian Refuge.

The Church was also recognised with **Certificates of Merit** awarded to Christine Aubrey for her work with various Church programmes and Sarah Leigh as the historian of the Church and a prominent Friend. **Merit Certificates** were awarded in addition to the Steyning Festival, Gerard Bagley (for his work with the Arts, Film and the Environment), Roger Brown (for major environmental initiatives), Robinson Opticians, Steyning Arts, Steyning Downland Scheme, Steyning for Trees, Steyning in Bloom, Steyning Museum and Derek and Jane Took (for their work with Steyning Good Neighbours).

The evening ended with wine, cheese and other refreshments during which there was an exhibition from the Society's archives and a power point presentation showing events in its history, as well as some of the projects the Society has supported in recent years.

Tony Struthers



THE STEYNING SOCIETY PRESENTS

TREASURES FROM YOUR HOME

Tuesday 27 June 7.30-10.00 pm Steyning Centre

Tickets: £7 available from the Steyning Bookshop. Non-members welcome.

You are invited to bring a treasure from your home for Rupert Toovey to discuss and value. At the end of the evening there will be an Auction of top quality prizes. Refreshments will be served.

More information on: www.steyningsociety.org.uk

FLOWERS IN MAY



The bluebells have been stunning!

This picture was taken in the woods at Spithandle Lane by Catherine Berry.

FLOWERS FOR THE CORONATION



Beautiful red, white and blue flowers in church to celebrate the King's Coronation.

Thank you talented flower team.

PLANTS OF THE GARDEN FROM THE BIBLE

CAPER (CAPPARIS SPINOSA)

Ecclesiastes 12:5

Known for its edible immature flower buds, used for cooking, the Caper is one of the commonest bushes in the Middle East. In an unusual reversal, it keeps its foliage during the dry season and drops it in the rainy season.



Caper produces showy white flowers. Most versions of the Bible translate the word Caper, as "desire".

HYSSOP (ORIGANUM SYRIACUM)

Hyssop appears twelve times in the Bible, making it one of the better known Biblical plants. It was used to paint lamb's blood on the doorposts during the first Passover and had other ceremonial uses. A relative of Oregano, this aromatic herb produces clusters of small yellow flowers.

JUNE GARDEN TIPS

1. Continue to thin out drifts of hardy annual plants if they are overcrowded.
2. Dead head and cut back Oriental Poppies after flowering. Cutting them down to ground level to stimulate new growth.
3. Start to pick Sweet Peas as soon as they flower to encourage more flowers.
4. Lift and divide clumps of Snowdrops and Bluebells.
5. Pinch out the tips of Fuchsias to encourage a bushy habit and more flowers.
6. Dead head the Roses if they are repeat flowering types. Otherwise leave the seed heads to form decorative hips.
7. Towards the end of June, if hardy Geraniums have finished flowering, cut them back to encourage new foliage and flowers.
8. As new shoots appear use soft ties to train climbing plants such as Honeysuckle, Clematis, to their supports.

Enjoy your garden, window box and green spaces.

Robert Hill-Snook

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Steying Church Flowers in JUNE

3 and 10 Carol Lathleiff

17 and 24 Carol McKechnie



THE ROSE
THE FLOWER
OF THE MONTH

Carol McKechnie

THE STEYNING SOCIETY

Friday 16 June at 19:00 for 19:30

The Steying Centre, Fletchers Croft,.

A passion for Piers by Jackie Marsh-Hobbs

Jackie is a well known Brighton guide and authority on the town. She has researched many sites in Brighton and has a happy knack of being entertaining with her knowledge. Jackie is a colourful local character and so we always have to book her up early!

Wine or elderflower (monetary donations welcome) on arrival. Bring and Buy table with Books, CDs, DVDs and Puzzles.

Free to members and £3 for guests.



So today, in church,
a guy in a dress tried to drown me

And, I kid you not,
my family just stood there
taking pictures!

liturgy.co.nz

THE ARTS SOCIETY

The Odd Couple: The Gardens of Edwin Lutyens & Gertrude Jekyll

A talk by by Steven Desmond
Monday 12 June 2023 at 10am
The Steying Centre, Fletchers Croft

In the spring of 1889 the young Edwin Lutyens, met Gertrude Jekyll. She was a well-known eccentric, and a generation older than the young man who communicated with the world through drawings and elaborate jokes.

Miss Jekyll empathised with his big ideas regarding design, detailing and distinctiveness. She opened social doors to him, and he brought her theories and experiments in garden-making onto the national stage. Their joint creations of house and garden became the talk of Edwardian society and set a standard of excellence which has been admired ever since. Separately they were interesting, curious, isolated; together they proved irresistible.

Steven is an independent landscape consultant specialising in historic gardens and architecture.

Free to members; visitors £10 donation

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!

DAVID'S TENT

Hello! My name is Julia and I work for the Christian festival "David's Tent". Our heart is to gather believers at Wiston House Estate, Steyning every year to worship the King.

We have quite a few worship teams that travel far to be with us and to lead everyone in worship. Each year, we try to find people who live locally who might be willing to host some worship team members in their homes.

The event happens across the August bank holiday weekend (this year, the 25th - 28th August). If you live near the Wiston House Estate and have room(s) in your home for this weekend please get in touch!

Although we cannot offer financial compensation for hosting, we would love to give you free wristbands so that you or your friends could come and enjoy the gathering itself.

You can email me at guests@davidstent.net or call me directly on 07596663304.

Thank you, in advance, for your generosity!

Julia Loveless Guest Liaison

ANAGRAM FOR JUNE

The anagram for June is:
BAPTISING

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

I SAT with a BAP then I PAT the PIG before I BAG the GIN !!!

BAPTISM welcomes all of us to the Church.

Make a list of people and things at Baptism:

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____
- 6 _____

Draw a picture of a Baptism

Write the missing words that the Priest says at Baptism:

I baptise you in the name of the _____ and of the _____ and of the _____

TALK TOGETHER

This picture is called "The Triune Heart of the Universe" by Stushe Art.

Do you like it? Do you like the colours? What do the shapes make you think of? How would you picture the heart of the universe?



RECIPE FOR JUNE

LEMON ROAST POTATOES

Serves 4-6. I usually halve the ingredients for the 2 of us although we like garlic so usually use 2 cloves.

Ingredients

1.3-1.5kg floury potatoes such as Maris Piper, peeled
50ml olive oil

3 garlic cloves, very finely chopped. Or use the paste, follow pack instructions on how much to add.

Grated zest and juice 1½ lemons. Bottled lemon juice also works well.

1 tsp dried thyme

1 tsp dried oregano

2 fresh thyme sprigs, leaves picked



Method

1. Begin by thinly slicing the potatoes about 0.25cm thick. I strongly suggest you parboil for 5-10 minutes. I've done both ways and parboiling gave, in my opinion, better results.
2. Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6. Drain the potatoes, leave to cool slightly if parboiling and pat dry on kitchen paper. Stack the potato slices upright in lines that run the length of the oven dish. Pack them tightly together so they support each other to form long rows.
3. Mix the olive oil, garlic, lemon zest and juice with the dried thyme and oregano. Drizzle over the potatoes, then sprinkle with sea salt and the fresh thyme leaves.
4. Bake for 60-70 minutes until crisp and golden (cover with foil if they start going too brown). Test that the centres of the potato slices are soft and cooked through with a skewer before removing from the oven.

I usually serve this with a gammon joint but as part of a lighter summer dinner such as BBQs or with fish it would also be a good accompaniment.

Becky Walker



STAG BEETLE

I've only ever had one sporting hero. In the red corner, standing 6ft 6 and weighing in at 365lbs, Big Daddy kept my Gran and me glued to the TV set on wet Saturday afternoons as he wrestled Giant Haystacks or Kendo Nagasaki in his sequined spandex.

In June, Stag Beetles – the big daddies of the beetle world – are emerging from the ground and getting ready to rumble. There's around 3,000 different species of beetle in Sussex and an estimated 29,000 species across Europe. Just as Big Daddy's 64-inch chest earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records, the 2.5 inch long Stag Beetle holds the coveted title of Europe's Biggest Beetle. And, like a 26 stone man in a spangly leotard, the adult male Stag Beetle is equally impressive and ludicrous. Its 3-segmented black and maroon armoured body is crowned with a ridiculous pair of trademark stag-like 'antlers'. They are actually modified mandible mouthparts and are used to impress the antler-less females and to grapple rival males.

Before these tiny titans step into the ring they have to put in some long hours in training. The beetle's larvae spend an incredible 5-6 years munching on a deadwood diet of buried logs and roots, building the bulky body that will sustain them to survive above ground. As adults they will live for just a few weeks without feeding, relying solely on the fuel tanks accumulated underground. In early summer, after pupation and transformation, they burst from the ground and go looking for a fight. I always find it incredible that these chunky, bulky beetles can fly but on warm evenings they whir through the air with the grace and subtlety of a Chinook on aerial reconnaissance for females. But if another male beats them to it that's when things get nasty.

In my fantasies I imagine these beetle brawls to play out on a dead tree stump. A crowd of over-excited elderly invertebrates gather round; the grasshoppers and crickets chirping in with a chorus of "We shall not be moved" while the earthworms and earwigs chant "Eas-eh! Eas-eh!" The fighters face off before charging and locking antlers. With incredible strength a Stag Beetle can lift his opponent into the air, holding him there heroically before body-slammng them down onto the stump.



We're fortunate that southeast England is a hotspot for these Herculean heavyweights but sadly our Stag Beetles are on the ropes. The loss of old trees from the countryside has had dramatic impacts on the survival of the beetles' underground larvae and their numbers are declining. My tip for spotting a Stag Beetle is to look for them in June in Henfield churchyard in West Sussex or around Ringmer in East Sussex.

Michael Blencowe

THE TRINITY



Matthew 28:19

**Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations,
baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and
the Holy Spirit.**