

Church Magazine

FREE



Steyning and Ashurst

SEPTEMBER 2023

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

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist

6:00pm Evening Service (Reflections on 1st Sunday - see below)
(Choral Evensong for Battle of Britain Sunday on
17 September)

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, with readings and music built around a 10-15 minute silence for prayer and contemplation, in the quiet and calm of this beautiful church. This month it is held on Sunday 3 September and entitled "*Making time for God*".

Harvest Services - for your diary

Steyning 9:30 Sung Eucharist Service Sunday 1 October

Ashurst 10.30 Family Service Sunday 8 October

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,

We should never take autumn for granted. Some tropical climates can pass straight from summer to winter and do not have

'autumn', or much in the way of spring. Shortening evenings are something else characteristic of the Northern Hemisphere. Those who live near the equator notice little difference between the length of days over the year. Visitors from warmer countries to the UK, and especially Scotland, often comment on the long summer evenings or the short winter nights.

Personally, I always look forward to the autumn, 'Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' as Keats put it. For some however passing of summer is a cause of melancholy, maybe because the association of autumn with old age – 'the autumn of life'. This season of the Christian Year may add to such a feeling of wistfulness; with Halloween, All Souls and Remembrance Sunday passing in quick succession, reminding us of unhappiness and grief, as well as the hope of the resurrection.

Life of course would not be life without sadness and regrets. Sometimes Christianity, especially from the outside, can seem falsely happy, shallow sentimentality. It is the opposite of course. Jesus came into an unhappy world, not to deny that unhappiness, but to confront it and transform it. His resurrection would not be a cause of joy, if it had not first been a reason for mourning and despair. Before autumn ends and after our festivals of remembrance, we keep the Feast of Christ the King, reminding us how – however far off it sometimes may seem – the Kingdom of God is always close to us, here and now. Jesus who conquered death reigns at God's right hand, and reigns not only over heaven but over us. Not a dignified and distant monarch, but the same King we first worshiped as a baby, in a stable, on his birthday. Autumn leads not to winter, but to Advent.

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.

We give thanks for the families who have found further accommodation and know they will be a blessing to their new communities and churches.

Do please send in your contributions because what you do or think or see is of much interest to our readers.

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

steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

The cover picture is from Steyning Community Orchard, which is to be found in the SW corner of the Memorial Field.

Sunday Notices

The weekly Sunday notices 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 Sunday notices contact: office@steyningparishchurch.org or ring 01903 813276

To add any new prayer requests contact: prayers@steyningparishchurch.org or ring 01903 813276

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Prayer diary for September

Sunday 3 September The Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Friday 8 September The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Almighty and everlasting God, who stooped to raise fallen humanity through the child-bearing of blessed Mary: grant that we, who have seen your glory revealed in our human nature and your love made perfect in our weakness, may daily be renewed in your image and conformed to the pattern of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 10 September The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Thursday 14 September Holy Cross Day

Almighty God, who in the passion of your blessed Son made an instrument of painful death to be for us the means of life and peace: grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer for His sake; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 17 September The Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

Thursday 21 September Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

O Almighty God, whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector to be an apostle and evangelist: give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive love of riches that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 24 September The Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

Friday 29 September Michael and All Angels

Everlasting God, you have ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and mortals in a wonderful order: grant that as your holy angels always serve you in heaven, so, at your command, they may help and defend us on earth; 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.



Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony

29 July Martin Alan Eastwood and
Laura Louise Gosset

Interment of Ashes

22 July Leasha Band died 26 April 2022
22 July Myrtle Band died 19 July 2022

Family Support Work

HARVEST FESTIVAL at STEYNING
GIFTS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT WORK



9:30 Sung Eucharist Service Sunday 1 October

Thank you for your generous food and monetary gifts during this last year. At Harvest-time FSW always hope to fill their coffers with your food gifts which sustain the families throughout the winter months. Again, this year your monetary gifts will be a great help with the enormous heating bills the families face.

These are the ways in which you can help:-

- ⇒ **Bring your gifts of food or money to Church on Harvest Sunday**
- ⇒ **Donating by cheque directly to Family Support Work,**
Garton House, 22 Stanford Avenue, Brighton BN16AA
- ⇒ **Cash or Cheques** made out to Steyning Parish PCC (with Family Support Work written on the reverse), and posted through the Penfold Hall letterbox.

We appreciate all you do for FSW.

With our thanks, Sue and Wendy



The fruit is ripening on the trees. The Community Orchard is such a blessing for anyone who wishes to visit and the special apple days there are always wonderful. The picture on the cover is from the Community Orchard.

Windfalls. When I use that word I remember scrumping along the roadside and our neighbour's trees that just overhung the pavement all ripe and ready for us to jump up and reach and pull or shake the branches and then scream with girlie delight!! Apples were like gold and gorgeous!

The Jews of Jesus' day believed that whatever man's contribution was within the process of farming, it was always the land, the earth, that was the source of food. The crop was a gift – a windfall – from God.

Both the fruit and the crop ripen to reach their full potential so they can feed us and give us pleasure. Sometimes, after a storm, the ground can be covered in windfalls, and for me they are unexpected treats ready for us to just bend over and take our pick, but it can be hard on the back or knees nowadays. In windfalls I can see bounty where others might see waste, and this bounty is to be shared.

Today there is also another meaning of the word Windfall. "Unexpected gain or good fortune." This is usually applied to a monetary gain, and perhaps this is the most seductive of all gains, capturing our hearts and minds and dividing our loyalties. The Bible talks about money in many places, and shows how the way we earn, use, invest and manage our money can be just or unjust.

If riches increase, do not set your heart on them *Psalm 62:10*

Jesus tells the parable of the rich fool. (*Luke 12:13 – 21*). Parents have died, and now there is an estate to settle, but one of his brothers felt he was not getting a fair deal, so he says "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." In other words, tell my brother I want my fair share, and on the surface that sounds very reasonable, but Jesus saw the question suggesting that life is about what we get, so he told a story. One year the land of the rich man yielded an abundant crop and most would see this as a blessing, but the rich man began to allow the management of the windfall to take over his life. "What should I do for I have no place to store

my crops?" He has forgotten his sense of stewardship and that the goods of the earth are meant to meet the needs of all.

For him, the windfall is not a benefit for the community but for his benefit alone. He goes on, "I will build larger barns. And there I will store my grain and my goods and I will say to myself 'You have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, drink and be merry.'" No mention of anyone else benefitting from all this abundance. It is a question of **my** grain, **my** goods.

Jesus does not say anything against the man having riches, but the problem lies with not caring. You may not have grain and goods stored away for that rainy day, and you may be the one who really needs the food bank or the Community Fridge to have food on the table each day, but I see around me that we are all rich in gifts in some way – compassion, time, skill, a listening ear, eyes that meet, hands that will touch, a smile or even a tear.

This parable does not condemn wealth or power, but it does tell us how to live. You may never be rich, but it is so easy to be greedy, and I was told by a wise priest once that:

"What will count when I die is what kind of person I became during my life. Never love possessions, use them; never use people, love them".

Chris Fitton

Prayer Points for September

- For our churches as they return to their various meetings and activities after the summer break.
- For our schools. For the families, the staff and the governors; for all who visit and provide help and support.
- For those who are travelling or on holiday
- For farmers and fishermen, and all who supply our daily needs, and bring them to our town or our door.
- Thankfulness for the beauty of this land, and for help to be mindful where there is brokenness.
- For all who live and work in Ashurst.
- For the market on Saturday; the traders and stall holders, and the visitors.





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

We are asked not to forget Sudan when we pray for peace in the world.

Pray for true forgiveness and healing and that reconciliation and stability can happen.

Pray for the ruling party of Sudan and that peaceful talks happen rather than fighting.

So many lives have been lost so we pray for the wisdom of all leaders when handling matters, and that God's hand will guide them.

Pray for those organisations who are working to bring about reconciliation and deal with all the issues that arise.

Pray for all Christians in the country, that they will not lose heart.

Saint of the month

THEODORE OF TARSUS, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY (c603-690)

Theodore was probably the most important Archbishop of Canterbury between Augustine and Lanfranc both because of his organisation of the Church in England and as a scholar and teacher.

All we know of him comes from the writings of the Venerable Bede. He was a Greek by birth who was educated in Athens and became a monk. Following the death of Archbishop Deusdedit in 664, because of plague it took three years to find a successor, Wighard, who also died of plague on his journey to Rome to be consecrated as the next Archbishop. Given the delay, the Pope chose Adrian who refused saying he wasn't worthy but recommended Theodore, at this time still an unordained monk. Within four months he had been ordained priest and bishop and both he and Adrian travelled to England arriving in May 669 after a long and arduous journey during which Theodore learnt English.

On arrival, they found a Church lacking in leadership. Theodore appointed three new bishops and began a tour of the Church. He summoned a Synod at Hertford in 672 and issued canons designed to establish principles of administration and order. The date of Easter was also affirmed which led to the ascendancy of the Roman use as opposed to the Celtic use.

He sought to bring unity to a fragmented Church. A major area of contention for Theodore came in the Northumbrian region, the area most loyal to the Celtic traditions and opposed to the decisions made at the Synod of Whitby. Theodore introduced the Roman system of Church government whilst allowing the Northumbrian Church freedom to blend both Celtic and Roman principles. His actions shaped the Church for ages to come giving a common identity to the Church in Britain.

Theodore was a gifted teacher and theologian also teaching science, astronomy and law at the school he founded in Canterbury. He was a visionary leader who oversaw one of the most fruitful periods of the Church in Britain. He died on 19 September 690 at the age of 87. He was buried close to St Augustine in the monastery at Canterbury.

Untouchable?

In those weird times I suppose one of the deprivations we most felt was the requirement to ***keep away***. “I really miss being able to hold you tight” they said; and then I think of the couple who made it a rule to have at least five hugs each day so they don’t get cross with each other.

It may well be that the COVID precautions have lost their immediate urgency nowadays, but they seem to have been replaced by a widespread fear that to touch means you are liable to be accused of real malicious intent. Whatever happened to the friendly affectionate gesture of support?

I am reminded of various groups of people who have to put up with this as part of their ordinary life. There is I believe still a caste of **untouchables** in India, though you’re not allowed to call them that any more and some of them have reached high office in the law and political life.

There are the lepers of biblical times – “Unclean!” – who were astonished by the healing touch of Jesus; and in our own time you and I may well remember Princess Diana breaking ranks by embracing HIV sufferers and the excitement that caused.

The bible is full of **healing touch** incidents, from the Finger of God at creation depicted in the Sistine chapel, to the readiness of Jesus to raise the dead by hauling them up by hand, even though the touch of a dead person meant you were ritually unclean. (Remember the priest and the Good Samaritan; I suspect he was afraid the man in the ditch *was* dead, which would have rendered him unfit for his temple duty).



And this willingness to extend a healing, caring hand has gone through the whole of Christian history, which is why it was such a deprivation in those troubled Covid-times and why we are all desperately trying to find the next best thing to express the thought that counts.

It is not by chance that the great grace-bringing sacraments of the church all include, what the Prayer Book calls, an outward and visible sign for us to latch on to – water, bread and wine, oil, hands, etc. Was it Max Bygraves who used to sing,

“We need hands ...”?

Afterthought:-

When I write these droolings of what I like to think of as my mind, I am anxious not to give the impression that *I know things*. So I share with you now something I *don't* know and puzzle about.

With all this emphasis on touch, why does the Risen Lord say to Mary Magdalene "Don't touch me". He didn't say it to Thomas or any of the others. Why her? I know I have heard pious (and unconvincing) sermons about Mary being too caught up in his physical presence etc. etc. but I worry that is too much making the evidence fit the conclusion. I just don't know; it doesn't actually matter what I think; and it is not important if there are some things I, or you, don't know.

But I would like to know!

Senex

Late extra!

Special psalms for special needs.

- * My headmaster said 15 was "the gentleman's psalm". (Boys' school!)
- * 130 is the one when you're really depressed
- * When I was a boy 91 was the air raid psalm
- * 22 is the Psalm on the Cross for Maundy Thursday
- * 107 is the sailor's psalm and it shows why Israel never had a navy!

The psalms are full of phrases and sentences that have been borrowed.

For an example, on a lighter note, the prized locally brewed beer where I was a curate was known as O B J ... psalm 100 O Be Joyful!

Hear the word of the Lord

Senex

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:
John Stoy will talk on
The Life of Nelson**

Date: Tuesday 26 September

Doors open at 3:45 for 4:00 start

Any enquiries please to Leonard Warner
(01903 812752)

Families and Children's Worker

Growing the Household of Faith

Supporting our families and young children to know Jesus.

Families and Children's Worker (FCW):

Where are we now?

Great news! Plans are well under way for recruitment of a Families and Children's Worker (FCW) and the congregation has generously given and pledged money to support this post. We have submitted a draft application to the Diocese for a grant which, if successful will enable us to appoint a full time FCW for three years. The role will involve supporting children aged 0-11yrs and their families, in church and in the community, and ultimately to 'Grow the Household of Faith'. A small consultation group has been formed, chaired by Katherine Heather, with the overall purpose of defining the aims of the role, developing the job description, and finalising the grant application on behalf of the Vicar and PCC.

So far, the group has consulted with diocesan advisors, and we have interviewed representatives of several parishes within the diocese which have recently appointed a FCW or are about to do so. This has been an inspiring



process, helping us to clarify our ideas, and we are well on our way to producing the necessary documents. Following our consultations with the congregation on the last two Sundays of August, we know that our congregation is 'on board' and excited by the possibilities that such a post

could offer.

We are grateful to all of you: the many who have donated, all those who have prayed for the project, those who filled in post-its for the notice board consultation in the church porch, or who have been part of conversations with members of the steering committee; your comments and suggestions will inform the whole process. The next step is for the post to be advertised. We expect to interview before Christmas and to have the successful applicant in place early in the New Year.

In the coming months we will be looking for volunteers who would like to work alongside the appointed worker; meanwhile, please keep in touch with your thoughts or ideas or offers of involvement. For more information or should you have any questions, please contact the Vicar or Churchwardens.

Sarah Lavery

Community coffee



**Do come and join us
on a Wednesday morning any time between
10am and 11.30am.**

Several of our visitors go across to the Church in time for the Wednesday morning service, but there are always plenty of people wishing to chat until the coffee mugs are empty and we don't finish until 11.30.

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**



**Joyce Honer sends her
love and best wishes to
all who remember her.**

**This summer she
celebrated her birthday
at Valerie Manor which
is where she now lives.**

**She would love to see
you if you are passing.**

GROWING THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH *is a Diocesan programme attended by members of our PCC and our congregation during 2023 to explore ways of growing our worshipping congregation and supporting our families and children to know and love Jesus.*

A study day at Chichester

A Personal Report on the Study Day on the Psalms at Chichester Cathedral

It is worth reading the weekly church notices, in case any of you are in any doubt. Through this route, I first noticed that on July 15, a day which turned out to be so windy that the Goodwood Festival of Speed had to be cancelled, our Deanery was to hold a Study Day as part of the Diocesan focus on the Year of the Old Testament, ably led by the Revd Canon Kathryn Windslow.

I started the day, not quite knowing what to expect, by going into the Cathedral to look again at the vibrant Marc Chagall window based on Psalm 150. This was very appropriate (it talks about everything that has breath praising the Lord). While I was looking at the window, the three choirs of Chichester, Salisbury and Winchester were practicing for the sung Eucharist later that day. They made a tremendous and beautiful sound which washed through the entire cathedral.



Then on to The Bishop's Palace to the study day.

We had three Psalms presented to us (Ps 1, Ps 139 and Ps. 121). We were actively encouraged to engage with the texts in a range of ways. After a brief introduction and discussion in the group, we could use the resources of the Bishop's Garden, the Chapel in the Palace (for those who wished to maintain silence) or staying in the group room. Because of the verse, (Ps1:3) "*He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*" I chose to go into the Bishop's Garden to look at trees. During the day there was much discussion about the hymns based upon the Psalms. But I thought of the Spiritual (US Civil Rights and old Trade Union song) "We shall not, we shall not be moved" Just like the tree that's standing by the waterside, we shall not be

moved.

After the powerful and moving sung Eucharist, with an excellent sermon by Mark Oakley, we had a break for lunch and I went to the Bishop's Garden to see the impressive old and varied trees.

After lunch we reflected on Psalm 139. My association was with holding the newest baby in our family the day before – and reflecting on how wonderful, precarious and fragile life is, and her mother needed emergency blood transfusions, but thankfully all turned out well.

The last Psalm of the day (Ps 121), begins

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

My help comes from the LORD,

who made heaven and earth.

Many of the group found this a deeply personal Psalm, much used in funerals. I asked the group to reflect on how difficult a Psalm it is for my Palestinian Christian friends in the Holy Land to pray, as the hills are the location of many of the illegal Israeli settlements from which the Palestinian villages are often attacked. This generated a lively discussion about the impasse in any kind of peace negotiations in the Holy Land.

So it was a rich day, with some good exchanges with people from other villages nearby, a lot of personal sharing and a real stimulus to engage more fully with the Psalms. So, it proves my point – you never know what you will discover through the church notices.

Roger Williamson

Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our defence against the wickedness and snares of the Devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan, and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Ride and Stride

*Ride and Stride is upon us
on Saturday 9 September.*



As I write this it is pouring with rain but hopefully on Saturday 9 September it will be dry and sunny and those of you who are able will be eager to start walking, cycling or any other non vehicle way of visiting as many local churches as you can on the day.

*I would remind you that 50% of all funds raised
are returned to our Parish Church.*

Sponsor forms should be at the back of the church . If you need any further information please see me in church or give me a ring on 01903 814007.

Wishing you every success,

John Downe



Family Support Work

**WONDERFUL AMOUNT OF
£585.90 RAISED AT THE COFFEE MORNING**

Huge thanks to the cake and coffee makers, the servers, stallholders, card makers, raffle prize donors, welcomers and to yourselves for coming to enjoy the morning. We did appreciate Alyson Heath's talk on how FSW are supporting our families with food, holidays, heating bills, advice and much more. Alyson told us how the food bank supplies are in demand more than ever, so **please continue** to bring your tinned food, coffee, tea etc to the basket at the back of the church. There is an up to date list on the FSW Notice Board of items currently needed.

As always, we thank you for your generous help.

The Arts Society

Monday 11 September 2023 at 10am

The Cult of Celebrity: Omai, The Exotic and Joshua Reynolds. A talk by Leslie Primo
The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning BN44 3XZ

Leslie will look at the events that led up to Joshua Reynolds' iconic portrait representing Britain at the very height of its imperial powers. As two worlds collided, Leslie's exploration will include the key players in Omai's story, his time in England and English society and his interaction therein.

Leslie Primo holds a BA in Art History and an MA in Renaissance Studies from the University of London. He has lectured at the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery, the National Maritime Museum and the Courtauld Institute. He lectures at the City Literary Institute, Imperial College, London.

Free to members; visitors £10 donation

Smile please...

CREATION V EVOLUTION

A child asked his father, "How were people born?" So his father said, "Adam and Eve made babies, then their babies became adults and made babies, and so on."

The child then went to his mother, asked her the same question and she told him, "We were monkeys then we evolved to become like we are now."

The child ran back to his father and said,

"You lied to me!"

His father replied,

"No, your mum was talking about her side of the family."

Heard on the Radio

Flowers in Church



September

2 Lulu Lane

23, 30 Sandra and Sheila

Carol McKechnie

Steyning History Society

We are back! And proud to announce that our annual programme of talks starts again on the second Wednesday of the month, from September through to May 2024, at the **Steyning Centre**, commencing **7.45 p.m.**

Visitors are always welcome for a small fee of £5 per person. The first meeting is on

Wednesday 13 September 2023, entitled "**Steyning Grammar School - 400 years of education**", by **Dr. Janet Pennington**.

Ian and Mary Ivatt

Cantilena Concert

Saturday 30 September at 5pm



The ensemble *Cantilena*, formed by its director Jenny Hansell to explore the repertoire for high voices, will be giving a concert entitled *Pilgrimage* in **Steining Parish Church**.

The hour long programme is a re-imagining of a pilgrimage to The Holy Land made by the 15th century German monk Felix Fabri. He actually made two pilgrimages and on both occasions kept very detailed and descriptive records of everything he did and saw. The nuns at a nearby convent back in Germany could not make the trip themselves but followed his pilgrimage 'virtually', incorporating his writings into their daily devotions. We can perhaps relate to this when we had to resort to travel programmes on the television in order to escape during lockdown!

The music in the concert is inspired by the idea of pilgrimage, by the various sacred musical works mentioned in his diary and also by the places he visited. It is a mixture of medieval motets, renaissance polyphony and plainchant. Extracts from his writings will also be read.

So, book the date and note the time of 5pm. There is no interval.

Tickets are £12 with a free programme. Schoolchildren £5.
Contact cantilena.info@gmail.com or buy them at the door.



The Steining Society

Friday 15 September at 19:00 for 19:30
The Steining Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steining

On the Range with the Rifle Volunteers A talk by **Justin Russell**
Justin works for Historic Buildings Archaeology and Conservation Ltd and has a particular interest in military archaeology.

(On Sunday September 17 Justin will give a talk at the Targets, with artefacts.)

The doors are open at 19:00 and there will be wine or sparkling elderflower (monetary donations welcome) on arrival.

Free to members and £5 guests.

All very welcome to attend

Friends' AGM

Stonemason, Adam Stone

Guest speaker at Friends' AGM

Sunday 8 October 2023

From 5 pm to approximately 7 pm.

Venue: Steyning Parish Church.



Timetable:

AGM: 5:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Drinks: 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Talk: 6:00 pm to approx. 7:00 pm (including Q&A)

Mastering the Art of Stonework: A Journey of Knowledge and Creativity.

Adam Stone, a distinguished figure in the world of stonework and heritage preservation, will explore his 40+ years of experience as part of a fascinating talk at the Friends' forthcoming AGM. With a remarkable career journey, Adam has much to share about his expertise in stone identification, selection, and design.

Adam Stone's career began as an apprentice stonemason with English Heritage, which marked the start of a lifelong passion for stonework and heritage buildings. Throughout his journey, he developed his skills as a mason and specialist in heritage building restoration, including establishing his own successful business, which he managed for twenty-three years.

In 2002, Adam joined Chichester Stoneworks as Production Manager and Technical Director, overseeing many of the company's most prestigious heritage and new-build projects. These included relocation of Temple Bar, the refurbishment of The Monument and the Inner Quadrangle at Buckingham Palace. Adam also oversaw the completion of works at Lancing College Chapel which had started 154 years before. His knowledge, experience, and creativity set him apart as an authority in the field of stonework. Adam is now Managing Director at Chichester Stoneworks after leading a management buy-out.

Adam's achievements meant that he became a Freemason of the City of London in 2010 and a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Masons. Four years later, in 2014, he received the prestigious Master Craftsman's Certificate of the Worshipful Company.



Plants of the Garden *from the Bible*

MALLOW (Malva Moschata)

Job 30:4

Mallow blooms from early summer to autumn with pale pink saucer shaped blossoms on upright branching stems. The thick leaves are edible, but sour leading to some Bible versions translating Mallow to salt herbs or "saltwort".

MUSTARD (Brassica Nigra)

Matthew 13:31, 32 and 17:20; Mark 4:31, 32 ; Luke 13:19 and 17:6

Jesus compared both the kingdom of God and faith to a mustard seed. Black Mustard grows up to 8ft tall and produces bright yellow flower clusters in summer.

Unfortunately Mustard is highly invasive, so take care to harvest all the seeds before they ripen and open.

GARDEN TIPS FOR SEPTEMBER

1. Dividing perennials regularly will ensure healthy, vigorous plants. Also offers the opportunity to multiply your plants and swap with fellow gardeners.
2. Sow sweet peas in a cold frame or greenhouse or window for early summer blooms next year.
3. Spring flowering bulbs are now available in garden centres, catalogues or online.
4. Net ponds now before autumn leaf fall gets underway, to reduce debris entering the water.
5. Keep dead heading annuals and perennials to expand their performance.
6. Raise pots off the ground for the winter by using bricks or pot feet to prevent waterlogging.
7. Time to trim Lavender. Remove spent flowers and trim shrub to tidy natural shape.
8. Continue seed collecting when they are dry - storing in a dry place and labelling for sowing next year

Wishing you continuous ENJOYMENT in the garden.

Robert Hill-Snook

Recipe for September

CHOCOLATE AND VANILLA MARBLE CAKE

Ingredients

225g butter, softened

225g caster sugar

4 eggs

225g self-raising flour

3 tbsp milk

1 tsp vanilla extract

2 tbsp cocoa powder



Thank you, Becky. A very yummy cake. This one made the same, just in a lined loaf tin.

Method

1. Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Grease a 20cm cake tin and line the bottom with a circle of greaseproof paper.
2. Beat 225g butter and 225g caster sugar together, then add 4 eggs, one at a time, mixing well after each addition.
3. Fold through 225g self-raising flour, 3 tbsp milk and 1 tsp vanilla extract until the mixture is smooth.
4. Divide the mixture between 2 bowls. Stir 2 tbsp cocoa powder into the mixture in one of the bowls. Take 2 spoons and use them to dollop the chocolate and vanilla cake mixes into the tin alternately.
5. When all the mixture has been used up (and if young kids are doing this, you'll need to ensure the base of the tin is fairly evenly covered), tap the bottom on your work surface to ensure that there aren't any air bubbles.
6. Take a skewer and swirl it around the mixture in the tin a few times to create a marbled effect.
7. Bake the cake for 45-55 mins until a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Turn out onto a cooling rack and leave to cool

Just for Families

LEAVES AND LITTLE FINGERS

Autumn Time can bring strong winds, so while indoors use the time to cut out a door wreath from a cardboard box. After storms we can have calm weather, so....

Time to go hunting!

1. All wear wellington boots and take a pair of scissors and some bags for your finds. You may want some wet wipes if hands get messy!
2. Look on the ground. How many leaves can you find? How many different shapes and colours? Store them in your bag.
3. Look under trees to find acorns, pine cones or conkers.
4. Look on bushes to find red rose hips.



At home again sort your treasures and windfalls and start arranging and sticking them onto the cardboard wreath.

Sellotape a string tie and hang from a door hook.

I hope you all make a wreath and enjoy your walk together

Anagram for September

The anagram for September is:

WINDFALLS

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

The Wild Wind blows around our

(Hope you find this 6 letter word)

The Bible Lands

There is a charity magazine called The Bible Lands, and it is there to bring support - in terms of prayer, finance and personal service - to The Anglican Churches in Jerusalem and The Middle East.

Quite a huge remit when I think of the areas it serves:

Jerusalem

Cyprus and the Gulf

Iran

North Africa

Egypt

Horn of Africa

Gambella

Now, I had to go to a map to find out exactly where these places are and I was interested in why these African countries and not others? Why not Sudan, for example, especially as it lies directly between Egypt and the Horn of Africa (Eritrea, the highlands of Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia)? As far as the Anglican church is concerned these named countries are divided into two provinces :-

Jerusalem, The Gulf and Iran are called Jerusalem and the Middle East

The final four are in the Province of Alexandria.

We all know and hear about different activities within these Provinces, and so much of it is very worrying. A quote from Iran:

"The four churches (in Tehran, Isfahan, Jaffa, [a suburb of Isfahan,] and Shiraz) closed in March, 2020, and yet have to be given permission to re-open. Only the Armenian and Assyrian communities are allowed to hold services in their ethnic languages. Farsi-speaking churches have not been permitted to open. This means that the small band of members of the Anglican Churches are not able to gather for prayer, worship and mutual support. Do hold the people of the Diocese in your prayers and pray for God's future to unfold in his good time."

Ever-living God, whose church is strengthened by the blood of the martyrs, we thank you for the witness of the Anglican Church in Iran and pray for the faithful remnant who endure. In suffering, sustain them; in fragility, nurture them; in Isolation, surround them with your love.

A prayer for Anglicans in Iran

Rose-ringed Parakeet

One of my favourite quotes from The Simpsons comes from Springfield's vet: "I love animals. I spend my life saving them and they can't thank me. Well, the parrots can." No animals are more famed for their ability to talk than parrots. Sure, their 'talking' is more mimicry than witty after-dinner conversation – a feathered echo chamber – but whether they're chanting 'pieces of eight' on a pirate's shoulder or swearing in front of Auntie Ethel, we humans have been entertained by their backchat for centuries.

There are around 400 species of parrot on our planet. Their native range encompasses pretty much everywhere south of the Tropic of Cancer. For us Brits their beautiful plumage embodies the exotic; the mystery and excitement of faraway lands. So imagine my surprise when I first saw a big green parrot flying around in Sussex.

The Rose-ringed (or Ring-necked) Parakeet looks ridiculously out of place amongst our comparatively drab Starlings, Wood Pigeons and Crows. With its garish green plumage and red beak, it stands out like a clown who has gate-crashed a funeral. And with that squawk – that incessant, demented squawk – there's no ignoring it.

South-east England's Parakeets are among the world's most northerly parrot populations, but how did they get here? Some believe they made their great escape from an East London film studio in 1951, after starring alongside Bogart and Hepburn in 'The African Queen'. Others claim that the Parakeets were set 'Stone Free' by Jimi Hendrix, who liberated them from their plastic cage in his girlfriend's London flat. I rather like the idea of American sixties icons being responsible for the spread of non-native species across the UK. Perhaps Sonny and Cher smuggled Grey Squirrels in through customs under their furry waistcoats, or a tousle-haired Bob Dylan secretly released some American Mink out of the stage door of the Albert Hall in '66.



The truth is, with tens of thousands of Parakeets being imported into the UK it was no surprise that a few slipped their chains and flew the coop. Since the end of the sixties these free spirits have been recreating the Summer of Love across the capital. Forming feral colonies, the Parakeets have filled the air with their joyous, intolerable screeching and squawking; sounds that would make Hendrix and Dylan proud. And as for free love, their blatant fornicating in London's parks has led to a Parakeet population explosion. They were once established in the (sub)urban jungle of Brighton and lived in the trees of Hollingbury from 1977 until the mid-nineties. Surely it's only a matter of time before the Rose-ringed Parakeet moves into suburban Sussex.

Michael Blencowe

The parable of the Rich Fool



Someone in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me."

Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.'

"Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

"But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

"This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God."
(Luke 12:13-21)