

Church Magazine

OCTOBER 2023



FREE

Steyning and Ashurst

Steyning Parish Church

1 Vicarage Lane
Steyning
BN44 3YL
879877

Vicar: Revd Mark Heather LLB BA

vicarofsteyning@gmail.com or rectorofashurst@gmail.com

Church Services

Bishop Ruth will preach at the
9:30 Sung Eucharist on Sunday
22 October

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist (Family Service on 19 October)

6:00pm Evening Service (Reflections on 1st Sunday - see below)
(Choral Evensong on Sunday 19 October)

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

This month *Reflections* is held on Sunday 1 October and entitled "A Harvest of Souls".

Harvest Services

Steyning 9:30 Sung Eucharist 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,

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
(1 Corinthians 12:4-6)

As usual October begins with Harvest gifts (see p.6) as we remember not to take the hard work and productivity of our farmers and producers for granted, and our October magazine has a broader focus on how the gifts and talents of our congregation contribute to the Household of Faith. We're used to thinking of 'our gifts' as though they are something that belongs to us but, as the Apostle Paul reminds us, writing to the Romans, Corinthians and Ephesians, it is God who provides the gifts we need for the church to work as the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4) and Household (or Family) of Faith (Galatians 6).

The Greek word he uses for 'gifts', *charisma*, is familiar to us today, in the narrow sense of special or attractive personal qualities, but in New Testament times it had an astonishingly broad meaning, including the word we also translate as *grace*:

- divine favour, received without any merit of our own
- a gift of faith, holiness, wisdom or virtue
- the supernatural power of God that imbues creation and draws all people to salvation through above all through the redeeming love revealed in our saviour, Jesus Christ.

This autumn we are asking all members of our congregation to complete a questionnaire as we review how the gifts all of us contribute to the work of the church. Forms will be available in church later in the month, or look out for a link in the emailed notices. If you haven't received a copy of the 'Gifts & Talents' questionnaire, you can obtain a link from office@steyningparishchurch.org or pick up a hard copy in church or from the Parish Office.

fr Mark

FROM THE EDITOR:

As we acknowledge the huge impact on everyone in Ukraine now that this war is well into 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.

This month's magazine sees Robert hang up his fork and trowel for the winter, and our grateful thanks to him for his interesting and wise help. It's a busy month in church during which we welcome Bishop Ruth. She is very much looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible after the service.

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:

steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

Sunday Notices

The weekly Sunday notices sent from the Parish Office give 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 October

Sunday 1 October **The Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity**

Tuesday 3 October **George Bell, Bishop of Chichester
(Commemoration)**

Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 8 October **The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity**

Sunday 15 October **The Nineteenth Sunday after October**

Wednesday 18 October **Luke the Evangelist**

Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 22 October **The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity**

Saturday 28 October **Simon and Jude, Apostles**

Almighty God, who built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone: so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Sunday 29 October **The Last Sunday after Trinity (Bible Sunday)**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: help us to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Parish Registers



Holy Matrimony (at Ashurst)

26 August Alexander Guy Wright

Imogen Sophie Way

Baptism

13 August Reggie Tresham Dames Rex Gregg

20 August Freddie Lawrence Smith

27 August Freddie George Hampson

Funerals

8 August John Kenneth Budleigh (d. 23.7.2023)

8 August Ivy Saunders (d.16.7.2023)

14 August Leah Marie Johnstone (d. 16. 7. 2023)

Interment of Ashes

26 August Penelope Jean Mimmack

30 August Pamela Hazell (d. 25.4.2023)

Family support work



HARVEST FESTIVAL at STEYNING GIFTS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT WORK

9:30 Sung Eucharist Service Sunday 1 October

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



Gifts and Talents

When I was teaching we arranged and developed special classes and courses for children that we recognised as having special gifts and talents, and this

could be anything from Maths to Art and to Football. We see young children on television playing Mozart beautifully on the piano. We know that these children have very special gifts, but they won't develop to their full potential unless they work hard. Sometimes we don't know we have a gift unless we are given the chance to try it out. I do not think that producing the magazine is a very special gift that I have, but it is something I can now do for the church and this community because I offered to take over from the previous editor, Gavin out of compassion, but had had no previous knowledge or experience of doing anything like this. I listened to all those who helped me and each month I practice hard to try to produce the best I can.

Gifts have been given at harvest for Family Support Work, and this, and other charities are so grateful for monetary gifts. How we use our gifts is far more important than the size of the gift -it is the motive for giving that is important. Perhaps we shouldn't say Our gifts and talents, but Our USE of gifts and talents.

Matthew 25:14-30 speaks about unwrapping our spiritual gifts and talents.

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

We are all God's work of art, he has shaped us in a unique way and no two people have the same combination of spiritual gifts, passions, personality or experiences, We have a unique shape and when I was a Crusader I was taught this:

S = our Spiritual gifts

H = our Heart or our passions

A = our Abilities or skills

P = our Personality

E = our Experiences and gathered wisdom

According to Ephesians we are shaped to do good works, to serve God and others. If you are shaped uniquely, then so also are your gifts and talents, your abilities and passions and your personality and experiences, and all combine together for the benefit of serving others in the name of Christ.

There are times when I will think "I don't have any useful gifts," or "I've never seen any special abilities I can use." 1 Corinthians 12:1 tells us we all have a gift and we are therefore selling ourselves short by saying that. How do we get to realise that we can do things?

- Pray and ask God and ask what he wants you to do in this community,
- Ask friends and family what they think you do well (We are far too good at recognising our weaknesses)

There are many ways we each can serve one another. In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul compares the church to a body where all the parts function together in harmony, so the body works the way it should. The church has many parts and each of us has a part to play. As I write this my own body is feeling the affects of covid, and one part is affecting many other parts. So it is in the church, where you and I have a part to play, and if one or two fall by the wayside and don't use their gifts or talents, then the whole church feels the consequences.

All the things we do for the church are important – nothing is unimportant. Look around you and try to see the little needs or the larger needs in the church and listen to where God is guiding you – it could be something new and just a little out of your comfort zone, but don't dismiss it or find excuses.

The Bible speaks of spiritual gifts and talents, but because we are uniquely shaped we can see they are both gifts from God, and both can grow and be effective and useful for others, not just for selfish purposes. The first two commandments deal with loving God and others, so it follows that we should use our talents for God and others. Our natural talents (such as the young children making glorious music) might well be as a result of genetics and how and where they have grown up, but it could be because God has endowed them with that gift. I am reminded of the Welsh rugby player Christ Tshionza who plays for Exeter and Wales, but no one else in his refugee family was so blessed.

Spiritual gifts are given to all believers by the Holy Spirit as they place their life and faith in Christ. The Bible has more than one list of spiritual gifts, and I think maybe these lists are not exhaustive, because many gifts are required today to build up Christ's church. We all are called and we are all equipped to serve, so the church can grow and be strengthened by each member of Christ's body here on earth.

Churchyard report Sept 2023

A small but enthusiastic team of volunteers has been working in the Churchyard on the first Wednesday of each month for the last two years - weather permitting! We have kept pathways clear, trimmed overhanging shrubs, cut paths to tended graves and begun to make the Churchyard more eco-friendly.

The plan is to cut the grass in parts of the less-visited areas twice a year, with the remaining grass areas continuing to be cut once a month. As the grass cutting depends on the resources of the HDC Parks Dept (who are responsible for maintaining closed churchyards such as ours) things don't always go to plan, and there have been times this year when the Churchyard has not looked quite as good as we would have hoped.

Those with a family grave in the longer grass area are invited to contact the Churchwardens who will arrange for an access path to be cut to maintain access to the grave. This management plan means that in the wilder areas, wildflowers are allowed to grow and set seed, and wildlife such as butterflies, grasshoppers, beetles and small mammals have a chance to complete their lifecycles relatively undisturbed.



We started surveying the wildflowers in our Churchyard in 2021, and have continued this throughout 2022-23. We have now recorded 82 different species of wildflowers here, up from 73 this time last year.

In early Spring there were hundreds of Milkmaids (*Cardamine pratensis*) flowering to the north of the Church. It is also known as Cuckoo Flower and Lady's Smock. It usually grows on the banks of streams, but in this part of the Churchyard it has found a damp shady spot that suits it. Only a few plants had been seen in previous years, so it seems that the less frequent grass cutting in this area has enabled it to flower and set seed before it is cut down. It is a main food source for the Orange-Tip Butterfly caterpillar, so hopefully these lovely early Spring butterflies will also benefit.

After a slow start due to the cold damp weather in early Spring, butterflies had a



good year. We spotted large numbers in the longer grass areas. These included Small Skippers, Gatekeepers, Ringlets, Meadow Browns and Marbled Whites. There were also numerous Dragonflies hawking over the area adjacent to Gatewick House. In late June, four Common Darter Dragonflies were seen on the west side of the Church over the longer grass. They shone out a lovely golden brown colour in the summer sunshine.

Churchyard Working Party

Memorial Garden

A small area has been allocated by the lychgate and is presently being prepared as a Memorial Garden (see photo) in which the British Legion crosses can be placed in remembrance of our fallen heroes.

This small garden was something that was created in past years and we thought we should resurrect this fine tribute.

Robert Hill-Snook is overseeing the preparation of this garden, so we know it will look very special when it's finished.

The Memorial Garden will be open to all local residents who wish to place their tributes.



Looking through the lychgate into the churchyard.



Follow through to the arrow-head marking where the Garden will be.



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

Unity Prayer

Father, You sent Your only begotten Son into this world to bear our flesh and to save us. In His mission, He taught us about Your heart. You are surely a God of peace who abhors violence.

Wherever possible, You encourage unity. He taught us to follow Him, to be the salt of the earth, and to make peace wherever we can. Lord, teach us to be peacemakers and to walk in a manner that reflects the wondrous peace that is given through Your Spirit in Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Connect Us

Saint of the month

EDWARD THE CONFESSOR, KING OF ENGLAND (1003-1066)

Edward was born in about 1003 in Islip, Oxfordshire, the son of King Ethelred II. He was sent to Normandy in 1013 to be educated at the court of his uncle, Duke Richard of Normandy. In 1016 Ethelred lost the English throne to the Danish kings and he fled to Normandy.

In 1042 the death of the then King of England, Harthacanute, led to Edward being proclaimed king. He married Edith, the daughter of the powerful Saxon Earl, Godwin. Edward was generally considered to be a tenacious and cunning king enabling him, in a situation of near-isolation, to preserve peace for over twenty years whilst the Danish and Norman magnates struggled for power.

His reputation for holiness which began during his lifetime, was based on his accessibility to his subjects and his generosity to the poor. He was also reputed to have seen visions and to be able to cure scrofula (the King's Evil) by his touch.

Less than a century after his death he was canonised by Pope Alexander III in 1161. Besides his generosity to the poor and his healing of scrofula, the fact that Edward's marriage to Edith was childless led to stories that he had taken a vow of chastity. Edward had vowed to make a pilgrimage to St Peter's tomb in Rome but this became politically inexpedient and the Pope commuted the vow into the building of a monastery dedicated to St Peter.

Thus began the building of Westminster Abbey to which Edward gave one tenth of his income and endowed the Abbey with many grants of land in different counties. It was to be the church for the coronation and burial of kings and queens of England. The Abbey was completed and consecrated on 28 December 1065 but Edward was too ill to attend. He died on 5 January 1066 and became the first monarch to be buried there. Following his canonisation, his relics were found to be incorrupt when they were solemnly interred in a new Shrine on 13 October 1163 which is his feast day. His relics remain undisturbed to this day, the Shrine being to the east behind the High Altar of the Abbey.



Edward Rex. Opening scene of the
Bayeux Tapestry

Fancy Dress?

“Why do the clergy wear special clothes to take a service,” someone said.

They are called vestments – just a fancy name for kit – and they are just to remind us of where we began; but they do change as time and fashion goes by. (So do men’s suits and women’s hemlines I seem to notice.)

They go back to the ordinary man in the street in the Roman Empire, and I suppose they should remind us that clergy have been doing this for 2000 years or so; but they are not desperately important. After all, I would think the only required dress code for the Last Supper would have been to take off your shoes and wash the dust off your feet, (nowadays wipe your boots on the mat! Please.)

So what would Mr Roman Christian put on?

An Amice, a sort of neck cravat which can go over the head like a hoodie or round the neck like a scarf.



An Alb (latin = white) a sort of combined shirt and trouser/kilt. Mr Roman Citizen might have called it a toga.

A Girdle, a bit of rope to keep the rest (and his tum) in place. I can say a bit more about girdles another month, about monks and their habits.

Nowadays a priest will then add a **Stole**, a strip of coloured ribbon worn across one shoulder, for a deacon, and down, but across from both shoulders for a priest. In theory a stole should hang straight down from both shoulders for a bishop - but no-one bothers about that now it seems. But I seem to remember stoles were nothing to do with the Roman citizen but came in much later in the Middle Ages when the clergy were much more concerned with rank than history! What’s new?



The garment you see and perhaps notice at a service is the “overcoat” called a **Chasuble**, (latin casa = cottage, casula = a little bell tent) which is what it’s meant to be, a big garment, circular, going down to the ground, with a hole in the middle for your head to poke through. (I suppose I think

of the “robe woven without seam” on Good Friday and wonder...)

Wearing a bell tent is not the easiest of practical garments for doing anything, so the priest/bishop at the altar would have on each side a deacon and a sub-deacon wearing a dalmatic and a tunicle (never could remember the difference but some clever seamstress will tell us next month?) and their sole job was to hoick up the chasuble so the chap in the middle could get his arms out and do something.

This was very labour intensive and in richer times a real burden, so they altered the shape, first by cutting out the sides – these are called Gothic shape I think - and then by trimming them even more into “fiddle-back” shape like one of those old-style sandwich boards which used to tell us to “Prepare to meet thy Doom” along the London pavements.

I hope that’ll do for now, but I’ll write a supplement on what a Bishop wears another time.

Please comment or dissent if you wish!

Senex

Pastoral Care Training

We are gathering together a more organised group for pastoral care within our congregation, and in the various outreach projects, such as Wednesday Coffee, Croft Meadow.

We all are nearly half way through our training, and comprise about 16 people who include the Home Communion Team, Wednesday Coffee Team and Some Welcome Team members.

The training is being provided most ably by the Rev Steve Gurr, who presented the “No Hands But Yours” introductory training last year. We will receive dementia training from Fran Hamilton as part of the seven-week course. At the end we will have been privileged recipients of a demanding but enjoyable set of half day sessions fitting us for our roles. Into the future we will have regular catch-ups with the group, to ensure we are supporting each other as we aim to support the congregation and those further afield.

Please do get in touch with me or Fr Mark, (details on page 26) if you are in need of pastoral support, or you know of someone who might like some pastoral care. Everyone matters!

Judie Thomson

Prayer Points for October

- For the ongoing work of all the groups of the PCC.
- For the small group working towards advertising and appointing the church Families and Children's worker.
- For those who might consider the post and apply.
- For the interview process and all involved.
- For Wednesday Community Coffee in the Penfold Hall.
- For the work of FSW and all those who collect and store and deliver the harvest gifts.
- For all farmers and fishermen.
- For the Market on October 7.
- For all who live and work on Godstalls Lane and Perrots Lane



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:

Terry Clarke will talk on

Christian Life

Date: Tuesday 28 November

Doors open at 3:45 for 4:00 start

Any enquiries please to Leonard Warner
(01903 812752)



Enjoying the
Autumn flowers at
RHS Wisley.

Bible Reading Notes

Last Advent in our Diocese of Chichester we began the 'Year of the Old Testament' and this coming Advent, we will begin the Year of the New. At the end of October, just before All Saints-tide, we mark BIBLE SUNDAY and the Last Sunday after Trinity, this year on 29 October. On that Sunday we will be encouraging everyone to think about how they engage with the Bible. Do we read it every week, every day or just in emergencies? To this end the Bible Reading Fellowship, a charity with Anglican roots in existence since 1922, offers helpful daily Bible reading notes. We will be giving examples of these in church on 29 October but, meanwhile, you may find it helpful to know that you can obtain these notes:

- through Jenny Smeed (see p26 for contact details) who coordinates orders of the best-selling *New Daylight* though Steyning Bookshop;
- from Amazon.co.uk and other online booksellers
- direct from BRF electronically, by daily email, as a PDF on an app for smartphone or tablet.

For more information about the range of notes available go to

www.brfoonline.org.uk

and look up Bible Reading notes. The costs are very reasonable and the contributors reflect a range of traditions and spirituality.

fr Mark

The Arts Society

All Singing, All Dancing Shakespeare

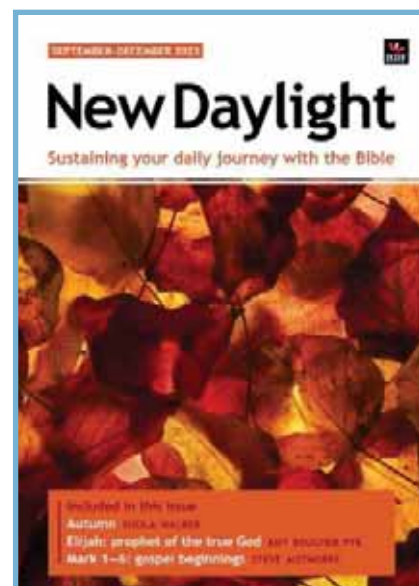
A Talk by Sarah Lenton

Monday 9 October 2023 at 10am

The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning BN44 3XZ

Shakespeare without words? Composers and choreographers are always using Shakespeare as a springboard, but only the greatest have pulled it off. Amongst that band are Verdi, Berlioz, Britten, Frederick Ashton and Kenneth MacMillan with their versions of Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet and Midsummer Night's Dream. Sarah will be using clips from the operas and ballets, and first hand accounts from the artists themselves. Sarah Lenton has worked in theatres. Opera. She writes programme articles, radio and play scripts, gives lectures and broadcasts regularly for BBC.

Free to members; visitors £10 donation





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**

The Steyning Society



Friday 20 October at 7:00 for 7:30

The Steyning Centre,
The Real St Cuthman
by **Sarah Leigh**

Sarah spent 10 years researching the history of Steyning Parish Church, then writing its current guide. She is now Secretary and Publications Officer for the charity, Friends of Steyning Parish Church, with many members who, like her, are not Church members.

Wine or sparkling elderflower (monetary donations welcome) on arrival.

Free to members and £5 guests.

All very welcome to attend

STEYNING CREATIVES ANNUAL EXHIBITION

AT THE SKYWAY GALLERY
THE SHOREHAM CENTRE
Pond Road, Shoreham BN43 5WU

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER TO
4 NOVEMBER 10am - 4pm
closed on Sundays

Free Admission, parking at rear of centre
with a café on site.

COME & BROWSE OUR
INSPIRING CREATIVE ARTWORK
IN WATERCOLOURS, OILS, ACRYLICS
and MIXED MEDIA

MEET THE ARTISTS
TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER
5:30pm - 7:30pm

Prayer

Say one for me...

But what do I say, how do I put some-one else's needs into my prayers?

It's so easy to find I'm telling God what to do and what the problems are and how he could set about helping them in answer to my diagnosis..."now look here God this is what you ought to do!"

A young kid told me how, years ago, and I don't know anything better now.

" I imagine I go into the church with xx and I take him/her by the hand and lead xx up to the cross or crucifix over the altar and I say to Jesus, 'Lord, may I introduce xx to you who I want to pray for. May I leave xx here with you to look after while I go and collect some-one else. You know what's best. Thank you.'"

Senex

A Christian Prayer for Peace in Our Time

O God, author and giver of peace, in whose image and likeness each of us has been created with a human dignity worthy of respect on earth and destined for eternal glory.

Listen to the cry that rises from every corner of this fragile earth, from our human family torn by violent conflict:

Give peace in our time, O good and gracious God, that peace which, as your son Jesus Christ told us and as we have experienced in these days, is a peace which the world cannot give.

To world leaders grant the wisdom to see beyond the boundaries of race, religion, and nation to that common humanity that makes us all your children and brothers and sisters to one another.

To those who have taken up arms in anger or revenge or even in the cause of justice; grant the grace of conversion to the path of peaceful dialogue and constructive collaboration.

To the innocent who live in the shadow of war and terror, especially the frightened children, be a shelter and strength, their haven and hope.

And to those who have already lost their lives as victims of human cruelty and chemical warfare, open wide your arms and enfold them all in the embrace of your compassion, healing, and everlasting life.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord.

Mary, Mother of all and Queen of peace, pray for us.

Peter J. Scagnelli

CHILDREN FIND THEIR GIFTS AND TALENTS

Helping your children tap into their passions and talents is one of the greatest gifts you can give the children in your care, and so rather than give games etc on this page, I want to talk for a moment about how children find their gifts and talents and grow as a result.

If children are given the opportunities to develop their passions then they will begin to connect with the heart and soul of who God designed them to be. This is not just for pre-school when so much learning takes place, but keep on doing this as they grow older. There is no greater self-esteem booster than to know who you are, and be passionate about what you have to offer the world, and to know you have the love and support of your parent, guardian or carer.

How can all this happen?

Expose your children to a variety of different activities. Search the community for the many different things on offer, Steyning is so rich in the number you can access. Try to open your mind and your child's to different possibilities.

Try and stay connected to your child's world by listening to them and taking their interests seriously. Children will talk about their passions, so listen. Also listen to them when they say what they don't like. If they don't like sports or music, for example, that is very valuable information about them.

It is often hard to allow children to follow their passions or dreams, but try not to be the one to squash any activities. We never know where God will lead them.

Maybe your child will want to drop something - don't be afraid to let this happen, even if you can see them doing rather well. Let them finish the term/session and then leave.

Each of our children is an individual with their own God given gifts and talents, and there will be a way for them to use these so they live a happy and fulfilled life.

Cont'd on next page

Ideas.

If you child likes cooking or baking

- Help them organise a cake sale for charity

If your child loves reading

- Help them partner up with a 4 or 5 year old and let them read to them, or help them read.

If your child loves art

- Help them volunteer to make posters for a charity sale; for advertising a local issue; for a school activity; for something you are connected with.

If your child loves to sing and dance

- Help them to contact a local care home and offer to put on a performance for the residents.

Chris Fitton

Flowers in Church



October

7 and 14

Sandi Dibb

21 and 28

Elisabeth Harden

Carol McKechnie

Steyning History Society

Wednesday 11 October

Steyning Centre,

Coombe Court

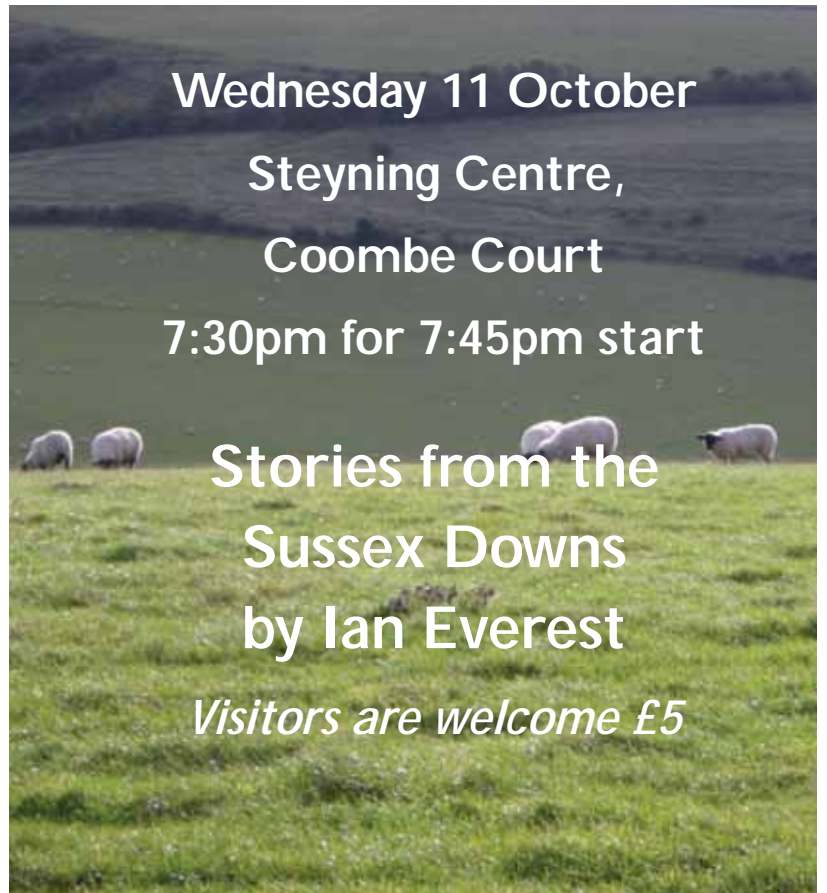
7:30pm for 7:45pm start

Stories from the

Sussex Downs

by Ian Everest

Visitors are welcome £5



Beauty and brokenness

Beauty is all around us here in this part of Sussex, but there is also brokenness - some of it can be clear and open, some of it can be behind closed doors or sheltered spaces. There are so many places around the world where there are floods or earthquakes or disasters, and alongside that the beauty of the people who work to help, feed and generally care for one another. Beauty and brokenness seem to go hand in hand. Neither cancels the other out.

Two readings have come to mind as I was pondering how these sit juxtaposed with each other.

Psalm 46 1-3

*God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble.*

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
and the mountains quake with their surging.*

CMS mission partners, Anna and Chris Hembury wrote about Hull where they work and live and both descriptions are true:

“Our local park is a gift and a lifeline, a little patch of green space in an area full of concrete backyards, an avenue of horse chestnuts with their flowering candles make a spectacular cathedral nave in Spring. Children’s laughter carries from the playground, so it’s not hard to give thanks in the midst of this beauty.

In another area the local park is dirty and unsafe, a little hive of criminal activity. A walk there means running the gauntlet of dog mess, broken glass, condoms and syringes, It is fertile territory for trafficking drugs from one area to another. The underpass provides shelter for cooking up heroin as well as rough sleepers with nowhere else to lay their head. All manner of base activities happen in dark corners. It’s hard not to curse in the midst of brokenness.”

Chris Fitton

Friends' AGM

Stonemason, Adam Stone

Is the guest speaker at Friends' of Steyning Parish Church 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

Plants of the Garden from the Bible

Pomegranate - punica granatum

The pomegranate was one of the pleasant fruits of Egypt, one of the promised blessings of the New Land.



Frankincense

This is a beloved aromatic oil derived from the sap of the Boswellia Sacra tree.

Exodus 30:34 Matthew 2:11

Garden Tips for October

- 1 Plant drifts of spring bulbs informally in a lawn, including Crocuses, Daffodils, Snakes Head Fritillaries.
- 2 Lift tender Cannas, Dahlia tubers and Begonias, to avoid frost damage. Dry off tubers and store in cool, dark conditions until spring
- 3 Reduce the height of shrub Roses to avoid wind-rock damage over the winter.
- 4 Plant evergreen shrubs and conifer hedges while the soil is still warm.
- 5 Plant herbaceous perennials.
- 6 Plant Forget-me-nots, Pansies and Wallflowers.
- 7 Take hardwood cuttings from deciduous shrubs.
- 8 Cut back perennial plants that have died down. Alternatively leave the dead foliage to shelter friendly wild-life. Keep seed heads for the birds.

Let's give thanks for the joy and glory our gardens and green spaces have given us this year.

Robert Hill Snook

This is the last in this series of Plants from the Bible and Garden Tips for this year. Thank you Robert for your help and inspiration as we all just do our best in our gardens. It has also been so interesting to learn about the plants from the Bible. I think you will have a cosy winter locked away in your potting shed with seed catalogues - and a bottle or two of what takes your fancy!!

Keep well Robert and we look forward to a new series starting in March 2024.

Recipe for October

BLACKBERRY AND LEMON FOOL FOR 2

Ingredients

200g blackberries, plus extra for the
topping
3 tbsp icing sugar
zest and juice of ½ a lemon
250ml double cream



STEP 1

Tip the blackberries into a pan with 2 tbsp icing sugar, plus the lemon zest and juice. Simmer until syrupy, then leave to cool. Chill for a few hours.

STEP 2

Whip the double cream with 1 tbsp icing sugar, then swirl through most of the blackberry sauce. Serve in glasses with extra sauce and fresh blackberries on top.

Becky chose this recipe for you with Autumn and Harvest fruits in mind. I do hope you have managed to find some blackberries in the hedgerows as they have been in abundance this year.

Blackberries on the South Downs.





Heliophilus pendulus

Everyone loves bees, don't they? Knowing that our bees are in decline has prompted protests and petitions and highlighted the important service these buzzing pollinators provide to our planet. Without them our crops and ecosystems would collapse. Yet many other pollinators that provide the same service don't get the same level of public support. So today I'm waving my flag for the hoverflies.

For some reason, they're not as loveable as bees. Perhaps it's because most of the time people mistake them for wasps. This isn't totally our fault because that's exactly what the hoverflies want you to think. The 283 species of hoverfly in the UK come in many shapes, colours and sizes but most of them sport yellow and black stripes, making them easily confused for wasps, bees, hornets and bumblebees. It's a strategy called Batesian mimicry and was first proposed by Leicestershire lepidopterist Henry Bates in 1861. Hoverflies are harmless. They don't sting and can't bite but they have discovered you don't actually have to be dangerous to deter predators – you just have to look like something that's dangerous.

Yet their devious mimicry isn't the most incredible thing about them. Their wings are the things. Hoverflies (like all flies) have just two wings (half as many wings as bees and wasps). Whereas other flies keep their wings straight, hoverflies incline theirs to create an angled downward stroke at a remarkable rate of 120 beats per second. This allows hoverflies to fly to a most amazing place: nowhere. Hoverflies have become the motionless masters of mid-air.

It's not all sitting around in the sky though. During their few days of life, hoverflies fight, fornicate and feed and while busy collecting energy-giving nectar and protein-rich pollen they inadvertently provide that vital pollination service to our flowers and crops. And hoverflies have earned the title of 'The Gardeners Friend' because about 40% of them have a larval stage which is basically a tiny crawling stomach that roams around your flowerbed eating aphids. Pollination, pest control – next thing you know these beneficial little insects will be mowing the front lawn for us too.

So why not thank these friendly flies by planting some of their favourite flowers in your garden - parsley, fennel, borage, hebe, sedum and alliums - and consider putting in a pond no matter how small. Do your bit for the pollinators and they'll keep the world working for us.

Michael Blencowe



Syrphus ribesii



Helophilus sp.



Marmalade hoverfly



Ephesians 4 2-7, 12,13

Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Try always to be led along together by the Holy Spirit and so be at peace with one another.

We are all parts of one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. For us there is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and we all have the same God and Father who is over us all and in us all, and living through every part of us. However, Christ has given each of us special abilities - whatever he wants us to have out of his rich storehouse of gifts.

Why is it that he gives us these special abilities to do certain things best? It is that God's people will be equipped to do better work for him, building up the Church, the body of Christ, to a position of strength and maturity; until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Saviour, God's Son, and all become full-grown in the Lord - yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ.