

# Church Magazine

**FREE**



**NOVEMBER 2023**

**Steyning and Ashurst**

# 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

6:00pm Evening Service

*Healing Eucharist 12 November*

*Choral Evensong 19 November*

*There will be **NO 9:30 Eucharist on Remembrance Sunday 12 November***

*Our next 'Reflections' Service will take place in the New Year.*

### **St James's**

10:30am Second Sunday Remembrance Service

Fourth Sunday Holy Communion

### **Wednesdays at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's**

11:30am Midweek Eucharist

*See page 6 for details for  
our All Souls' and Remembrance Services*

### **Parish Office Address:**

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Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.



## Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

It's easy to slip into the mistake of thinking about the church as we would any other society, club or institution. Reading the New Testament, however, especially the epistles, something completely different is being described – a living, breathing temple of the Holy Spirit, built up of living stones, built on a living cornerstone and made holy by God, to be a sign in a fallen and passing world of an eternal and lasting Kingdom.

What makes this possible is our Baptism – something deeper and more mysterious than we might think – initiation not into a human organisation but an invitation to be '*buried with Christ in his death and made alive by the power of his resurrection*' (Romans 6:3-4). Holy Baptism is an outward sign, and a manifestation of God's grace, or saving action in our lives. It affects us individually, but the focus of this issue of our church magazine is how it makes us, individual Christians, part of a household – or family or economy – of faith (see pages 7-10).

We sometimes make the mistake of thinking of faith as an individual matter. It's not, of course. We learn our faith from others and we need the faith of others to inspire us. Faith is what glues the church together and makes us the body of Christ – that other great metaphor of the New Testament epistles. And faith is not about us but what makes it possible for the church, the people of God, to continue Christ's actions in the world.

*Fr Mark*



*God of mercy and compassion, of grace and reconciliation, pour your power upon all your children in the Middle East: Jews, Muslims and Christians, Palestinians and Israelis. Let hatred be turned into love, fear to trust, despair to hope, oppression to freedom, occupation to liberation, that violent encounters may be replaced by loving embraces, and peace and justice could be experienced by all.*

*Reverend Said Ailabouni*

## 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.

Although there is much to worry us in the world today, there is also so much to be thankful for especially at Remembrance time. (See P11) This month there are some very important services for us, and details are on P6. There are events to note, and an important appeal by Christian Aid, and so much more.

Do please continue to 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](mailto: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](mailto:office@steyningparishchurch.org) or ring 01903 813276

To add any new prayer requests contact:

[prayers@steyningparishchurch.org](mailto:prayers@steyningparishchurch.org)

or ring 01903 813276

## Contents

Church Services . . . . .	2
Pastoral Letter . . . . .	3
Prayer Diary for November. . . . .	5
Parish Registers . . . . .	6
Remembrance Services. . . . .	6
Growing the Household of Faith	7
Children's Prayers. . . . .	9
Pause and pray for Peace . . . . .	10
Remembrance . . . . .	11
More Fancy Dress . . . . .	12
Remembering Harvest. . . . .	13
Prayer points. . . . .	14
SAMS. . . . .	14
Saint of the Month. . . . .	15
Community Coffee. . . . .	16
Christmas Card Sale. . . . .	16
FSW. . . . .	17
St Cuthman. . . . .	18
Chanctonbury Chorus. . . . .	18
Arts Society . . . . .	20
Steyning History Soc. . . . .	20
Flower rota. . . . .	20
Christian Aid Appeal . . . . .	21
Steyning Society. . . . .	22
Recipe for November. . . . .	23
Just for Families . . . . .	24
Sussex Wildlife Trust . . . . .	25
Church Directories . . . . .	26,27

# *Prayer diary for November*

## **Wednesday 1 November All Saints' Day**

Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son Christ our Lord: grant us grace so to follow your blessed saints in all virtuous and godly living that we may come to those inexpressible joys that you have prepared for those who truly love you; through 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 5 November The Fourth Sunday before Advent**

## **Sunday 12 November The Third Sunday before Advent Remembrance Sunday**

Almighty Father, whose will is to restore all things in your beloved Son, the King of all: govern the hearts and minds of those in authority, and bring the families of the nations, divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin, to be subject to his just and gentle rule; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## **Sunday 19 November The Second Sunday before Advent**

## **Sunday 26 November Christ the King The Sunday next before Advent**

Eternal Father, whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord and King: keep the church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace, and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet; who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## **Thursday 30 November Andrew the Apostle**

Almighty God, who gave grace to your apostle Saint Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ and brought his brother with him: call us by your holy word, and give us grace to follow you without delay and to tell the good news of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ 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**

16 September, at Ashurst

Dominic George Walheim

Sadie Emma Perkins-Taylor

23 September

Alexander George Watson

Seren Priscilla Bradshaw

## **Interment of Ashes**

7 September

Eustace Rupert (Ron) Broom d. 25. 9. 2019

Valerie Broom d. 20.11. 2014

7 October

Michael Oliver Slade Hawkins d. 15. 2. 2023

# *Remembrance Services*

**ARMISTICE DAY SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER 11 AM**

Open Air Act of Remembrance War Memorial Garden

(near the Tennis Courts on Charlton Street)

**REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER**

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's 10:45am

St James's 10:45am for 11:50am

*In loving memory* **All Souls-tide 2023**

*Annual Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving*

*The Parish Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman, Steyning*

*Sunday, 5 November at 4 p.m.*



Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. *Matthew 5:4*

# Growing the Household of Faith

Bishop Ruth came to Steyning Parish Church in October as part of our church journey in the Growing the Household of Faith initiative. The PCC and the bishop know very clearly how we are doing and where we are on that journey, but I have been trying to unpack some of the words in the title to gain a greater understanding of what it means.

Starting me on this track was something *Senex* wrote in September's magazine about not knowing things or having the answers to everything. That is where we have faith, just like Mary at the Annunciation when "*she was much perplexed*" and she found that her encounter with the Angel Gabriel moved her great faith on from one of certainty to one of pondering, wondering and questioning. She was stretched, and had to learn that her faith involved a God of mystery. And so it is for our journey of faith. We can face periods of bewilderment and messiness, but allowing this mystery to be, enables our faith to broaden and become multi-textured.

As our faith begins to reflect a deeper friendship and knowledge of Jesus then our



lives will change and grow. In 1Peter1 v 3-12 we are told that Jesus wants his reflection to be in our lives just as the goldsmith knew pure gold when he could see his reflection in it.

Hebrew 11 v 1 gives a definition of faith. "*Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*" (NIV) Faith is confirmed as confidence, which brings about reality, and Peter says that real faith is loving Christ whom we have never seen, but still know exists.

The household of faith.

In Ephesians 2 v19-20 Paul describes God's new and expanding church as a household: "*Consequently you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of the household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.*"

Steyning Parish Church is one such household that Paul talks about; a family, and then as now, a messy family with some disagreements or conflicts or where people do not always get along, but the unity that binds goes much deeper because we are united by the blood of Christ and therefore love underpins everything we do or say. Jesus is the cornerstone of the household and is likened to the most important stone for any building, making it strong, and he makes this community possible and he gives us the gifts to carry out God's mission and to grow.

So, our church is not about us but all about Jesus. Jesus spent His life with the outcasts and the foreigners or those on the margins of society, and so our church, our faith, needs to be accessible to all, breaking down those dividing walls, so no one feels like a stranger or foreigner.

This household, I think, is not just about this beautiful building and the worship inside, but it is about our community and our outreach to the wider community and the way we are to others. Can we forgive? Do we stop to offer a kindness? What service or sacrifice do we make for others? Every one of us can feel inspired to know what this community can grow into, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Gal 6 v 9-10

*"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."*

At the same time let us take pride in being a welcoming church and in the way we keep an eye out for new people and including people, just the same way God has included us.

In Romans 16 v 5 we hear of church being in a house and the blessings that that brought. There are house groups in Steyning that meet at different times during each month, and there are many blessings enjoyed by each. The house groups feel blessed to worship and study in simplicity, sincerity, safety and openness. Do ask Fr Mark about joining one if you are interested, or contact one of the groups listed on page 26 of this magazine.



As a household of faith we want to be agents of God's grace; we want to change lives and confirm or restore and develop our relationships with families and children in this community. How exciting that the Holy Spirit has inspired us all to give so generously that we are financially able to move to appointing a Families and Children's Worker. This new initiative needs our continuing prayers. (See Prayer Points on page 14)

There are many wonderful things that are working God's purpose out within the Steyning household of faith, and many people showing God's love in action. That love is the living energy that will grow God's kingdom.

*Chris Fitton*

## *Children's prayers*

At the Family Eucharist service in September these two prayers were written by Rosie and Millie Collins and they were read so beautifully too.

I am sure you will enjoy them.

Dear God,

We pray for the homeless and all of the people in Ukraine so they can find a safe place to stay. And please let peace be in the rest of the world.

Amen



Dear God,

Bless all of the animals and all of the elephants, tigers, whales, polar bears and koalas which are endangered. Please help all of the people who are trying to make this world right. Help the seas and the land. Please stop the global warming. Make the environment right. Amen

*Rosie and Millie Collins*



# Pause and Pray for Peace

Lord we ask for peace for those who need peace, reconciliation for those who need reconciliation and comfort for all who don't know what tomorrow will bring. Lord may your Kingdom come, and your will be done.

**We pray** that people still in Ukraine will be protected from the violence; that there will be provision of essential food, power and clean water; for vulnerable people who cannot flee.

That refugees will find safe places to stay. For healing for people who are wounded or have experienced trauma; and comfort for those who are grieving. We pray that international leaders will know wisdom and understanding, strength, courage and compassion.

## **Ukrainian citizens ask that we pray:**

- That God would intervene in the situation and stop the violence
- For God's wisdom for the presidents and authorities of both countries
- That God will care for those who are in danger, especially for Ukrainian people who have lost their loved ones, for His comfort and protection over them and the church

## **Please also pray for Russia:**

- That God will comfort Russian families who have lost their beloved ones

## **Prayer for strength for those going through hard times.**

God be surrounding you, his peace be yours, amidst this great storm you're safe in his arms.

God be above you, his lighthouse will shine, rays of pure kingdom light gently down.

God be behind you, with waves that will cleanse, sweeping away hurt to new life again.

God be beneath you, your bare feet will tread upon softest grace sand wherever you're led.

God be beside you, you walk hand in hand, filling your mind with new colours and plans.

God be within you, restoring your soul, with breezes of healing and eternities of gold.

*From [www.lords-prayer-words-of-wisdom.com](http://www.lords-prayer-words-of-wisdom.com)*

# Remember

A few years ago Michael Morpurgo (I'm a great fan of his!) compiled a book of thoughts relating to the 1st World War. He called it 'Only Remembered'. In it the author Raymond Briggs (of the Snowman) wrote this :

*I was lucky for the year I was born. The Aunties were very unlucky - you will see why. When I was a child there were always lots of Aunties. Some were real Aunties - Mum's umpteen sisters - Dad's umpteen sisters, there were no end of them.*

*Aunty Flo, Aunty Betty, Aunty Edie, Aunty Margery, Aunty Bertha, Aunty Jessie, the list is endless. I won't go on except for Aunty Violet, my favourite Aunty - killed on a bus in the Blitz. It seemed quite natural, didn't give it a thought - that's the way the world was. Lots of ladies everywhere. They were called 'Spinsters'.*

*Some were rather quaint and looked down upon, a few slightly mad. Then one day, when I was grown up, it dawned on me - 1st World War, a million men were missing. Why hadn't I thought of it before? The men these women never met.*

*Never even had the chance to meet. All dead. These ladies were always kind, gentle and loving to me. Not sour, bitter and resentful as they had every right to be.*

*A million missing men, those wounded, those who lived to count the cost - their story is our story and we must tell it again. Keep it alive.*

On reading this it really struck me as being something so familiar that I was amazed that the thought of what these young women gave had never crossed my mind either.

I just loved the description of these delightful "spinster ladies" - what very special attributes they had. Do we ever consider them and what they too had sacrificed?

I know I hadn't. Perhaps this year we should.



Maureen Jones

# More Fancy Dress

I don't suppose anyone noticed but I left one vestment out last month, so I thought I'd add it on now with one or two other more specialist bits of kit to make up the space.

I forgot the MANIPLE; it's a strip of coloured material about the same width as a stole but only about a foot long. It hangs over the priest's left wrist, and is always getting in the way when you try to do something at the altar. Originally it was literally a handkerchief and then a hand bag (latin manus = hand) and became a sort of portable pocket to keep things in. Some years ago it was discontinued. I really don't know who decides these things or why, but that's why I left it out. I missed it because it always got in the way and reminded me that I'm not as clever as I would wish.



I could add in the COPE, a big cloak worn for processions and effect, not for convenience, but useful for recruiting very small servers as cope-bearers before they are old enough to be trusted with a candle. It makes the wearer feel important!

Monks wear a habit, a cassock with a hood; and a scapula (latin = shoulder blade) a sort of back and front apron to keep the cassock clean; and a girdle - a rope round the middle which has three big KNOTS along it for the three vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience. I once heard a monk talking to a youth group describe the knots as the three freedoms; free from family responsibility, free from money worries and free from wondering what I ought to do next. It's a point of view.



Even more specialist kit, which you will only see on a bishop, and not always then these days.

On his/her head a MITRE a pointed tall hat like a dunce's cap (don't follow that line of thought!). It's meant to signify the flames of fire on the apostles' heads at Pentecost (Acts 2 v3).





In his/her hand is a CROOK which a shepherd uses to stop sheep getting away or (the sharp end) to make them get a move on.

And on his/her finger a RING. It should be an amethyst (Greek meaning 'not intoxicated' ie drunk, as in methylated spirits, and Acts 2v15. In ancient times amethysts were believed to be a cure for drunkenness) but lots of bishops cheat on this nowadays and wear a signet ring instead.



I think that's all folks

Senex

## *Remembering Harvest*





# Prayer Points for November

- This is a time of remembrance, so let us take time and remember all those who have influenced our lives. And be thankful.
- All those who have shown so much courage that they have stood and fought for what is right. And be thankful.
- November 5 is a time for fireworks and fun. We pray for safety for all who might face danger at any time, and especially our ambulance service and fire fighters. Remember the animals often distressed by the noise from fireworks.
- For St Barnabas Hospice and Chestnut Tree House.
- For all who live and work in Charlton Street, Mill Road and Sir George's Place.
- For the work of the PCC and the group developing the post for the Family and Children's worker and the group developing the Memorial Garden.
- For all the church home groups



Robert and Simon have prepared the memorial garden by the lychgate, ready for your remembrance tributes.

## 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  
"Significant events in my life"**

**Date: Tuesday 28 November**

**Doors open at 3:45 for 4:00 start**

Any enquiries please to Leonard Warner  
(01903 812752)

# Saint of the month

## ISAAC WATTS , HYMN WRITER (1674-1748)



Isaac Watts was born in Southampton in 1674 to a non-conformist family; his father had twice been imprisoned for his beliefs. Isaac was educated at King Edward VI School in Southampton and, having considerable academic ability, he came to the attention of a local benefactor who offered to send him to university.

Because he was not a member of the Church of England, Watts was not permitted to go to Oxford or Cambridge Universities but went instead to the Dissenting Academy at Stoke Newington. After graduating from the Academy, Watts became pastor of a large independent chapel in London, Mark Lane Congregational Chapel. Whilst there, he helped to train preachers and wrote a text book on logic.

In 1712 he had to resign as pastor at Mark Lane because of his failing health and was invited by Sir Thomas and Lady Abney to live at Abney Hall, the manor house of Stoke Newington (now part of north London) which Lady Abney had inherited from her brother.

Watts spent his days writing hymns and became known as the father of English hymn writing. It was said that he led the change from the singing of metrical psalms to a richer variety of hymnody which we know to-day. He wrote over six hundred hymns including 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross', 'Joy to the World' and 'Our God our Help in Ages Past'. Many of his hymns remain in use today and have been translated in many languages.

Watts lived at Abney Hall until his death in 1748 and was buried in the non-conformist cemetery of Bunhill Fields. Soon after his death a monument was erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey. His serene and spiritual manner and his strong faith endeared him to others. He remained poor but gave away a third of his meagre income to the poor.

The Church of England and the Lutheran Church commemorate Watts on the anniversary of his death, 25 November.

# 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 CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

**It is hard to think of anything which has not gone up in price since last year, but the Christmas cards sold on behalf of the Children's Society are available once again at prices of under £4 per pack of 10 cards.**

**Do come to 7 Goring Road, Steyning (01903 816946) between 11 and 12:30 on Saturday 4 November to view and purchase from this year's selection. *And enjoy a glass of mulled wine too!***





## HARVEST THANKSGIVING GIFTS FOR FAMILY SUPPORT WORK



“Thank you” for your enormous generosity with gifts, both of food and monetary donations. The Church looked so beautiful with the fruits of the Harvest and the wonderful food gifts.

There has been such a need, in these difficult times, that our food bank at Head Office is running low. However, it will be topped up for the Autumn with your thoughtful gifts which will help our families.

### AND NOW ANOTHER THANK YOU

Sue Morris and I have been the FSW Representatives for St. Andrew's Church for sixteen years. During this time you have helped us to raise the profile of this Diocesan Charity and so we have been able to support an ever increasing number of families. Year on year, we have together raised more money and, thus, employed more Support Work Practitioners who look after our families.

Sue and I are part of the Storrington Deanery FSW Committee. Our Chairperson, Alyson Heath, is brimming over with delight, because this committee has topped all the committees for fundraising this year. And this is due to you because you support the events, and so willingly give with great kindness.

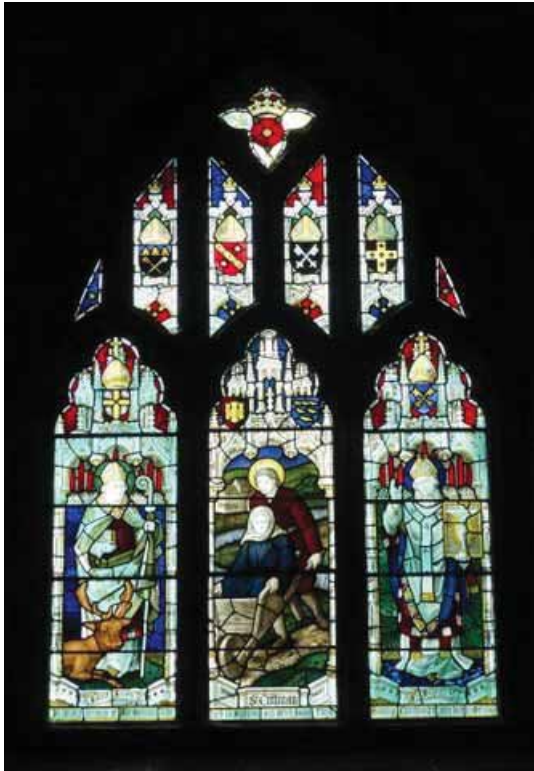
After sixteen years, it is the time for Sue and myself to stand down and make way for two more representatives with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. There are four, not onerous committee meetings a year to arrange events, probably three a year. We have found the Committee Meetings inspiring and fun (lots of cake, too). These sixteen years, of meeting new friends from the other deaneries, have been a joy and privilege for us both.

With our love and great Thanks,

*Sue and Wendy*

*The Vicar, Churchwardens, the congregation and all the readers of this magazine wish to join together to say a very grateful THANK YOU to both Wendy and Sue for these past sixteen years. You both have shown such love and passion for the work of all the FSW team. Now we need two or more new volunteers, please, to continue to help with coffee mornings and deanery events to help us raise funds, coordinate food donations and help us learn about the wonderful work the Support Practitioners do. **THANK YOU BOTH.***

# Cuthman Window



Pat and John Edwards visited St Swithun's Church, East Grinstead, and there discovered another window dedicated to St Cuthman (the central pane in the full picture on the left).



# Chanctonbury Chorus Concert

**Concert: Handel *Messiah***

**Saturday 25 November at 7.30 pm in Steyning Parish Church**

## **GETTING A HANDLE ON HANDEL**

*David O'Dell sings tenor with the Chanctonbury Chorus, does meticulous research and writes the programme notes. Here are a few of his Handel snippets to whet your appetite.*

Just 282 years after Handel completed the score, and 281 years after it was first performed, Chanctonbury Chorus sings *Messiah* in our home church of St Andrew's & Cuthman's on 25 November together with professional soloists and an orchestra of strings, trumpets, oboes, bassoon, harpsichord and organ. All the big choruses, including the *Hallelujah*, will be there in what will be a joyous occasion.

Handel started work on *Messiah* on 22 August 1741, finishing it 23 days later. This may seem an incredible achievement today, but it was not unusual for Handel. A



week later he began work on his next oratorio, *Samson*, which this time took him a whole month to write.



*The New Sacred Oratorio, as Messiah* was known until 1749, was first performed in Dublin in 1742 and very well received, but when it was sung for the first time in London at the Covent Garden Theatre some people objected to a work on a sacred theme being performed in a secular setting and, as a direct result, Handel cut the number of performances from six to three and set it aside for three years.

*Messiah* has a long association with charities. The original performance raised money for prisoners' debt relief, the Mercer's Hospital, and the Charitable Infirmary. Leading Irish clerics at the time, led by Jonathan Swift, insisted that, if their church choirs were to be used to sing the oratorio, ticket sales had to go to charity.

In England it was the concert to raise money for Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital in 1750 that marked the turning point in the popularity of *Messiah* and the start of its journey to becoming one of the best-known and most frequently performed choral works in Western music.

**This performance** of *Messiah* will raise money for the **RNLI**, which celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year.

**Tickets are £16.** The price includes a full printed programme available on the door on the night.

You can **buy tickets** from Steyning Bookshop or King and Chasemore in the High Street, online through Eventbrite, from members of the Chorus, or - perhaps easiest of all - from Canon Nigel after most 9.30 services.

I have no doubt that ancestors not only exist, but they are present for us. They come to us in moments of great need and trial, and they also celebrate life's moments with us.

*Walter Earl Fluker*

# The Arts Society

November talk: **The Dinosaur Sculptures of Crystal Palace**

A talk by Aaron Hunter

Monday 13 November 2023 at 10am at The Steyning Centre

Explore the World's first dinosaur models hidden in a south London park. Created in 1850s, we will look into the history and science behind these Grade I listed architectural structures. Palaeontologists began a journey to discover how these extinct animals from the deep past looked. We will explore how the professors and fossil hunters such as Mary Anning and Gideon Mantell found the fossils and created reconstructions - even dining inside one of the massive models for a New Year's Eve party in 1853.

*Aaron is a professional scientist and researcher with the University of Cambridge. As a palaeontologist and published researcher he is an expert on fossils and prehistoric life from the first animals to appear on our planet to early humans. He has a passion for archaeology, history, architecture and history of art, and looks at the interface between the arts and sciences.*

Free to members; visitors £10 donation



**Respect anyone wearing glasses...  
They pay good money to see you!**



## Flowers in Church



### **November**

4 and 11 Penny Warner &  
Louise Wheeler  
18 and 25 Sue Harris &  
Julia Elliott

*Carol McKechnie*

## Steyning History Society

**Wednesday 8 November**

**Steyning Centre**

**7:30 for 7:45**

**"Operation Mincemeat"**

**By Graeme MacPherson**

**Visitors are welcome - £5**



# Christian Aid World Food Programme

## TURNING HOPE INTO ACTION

Some of the catastrophes to which aid agencies respond strike suddenly, like the earthquake in Morocco and the devastating flood in Derna, Libya – to which parish members contributed through the recent Red Bucket appeal. They need immediate response. Other aspects of, for example, Christian Aid's work can be planned for a long-term, strategic response. One such project is the Christian Aid-World Food Programme partnership. The World Food Programme recently won the Nobel Peace Prize. They have the advantages of scale and being a UN agency. Christian Aid, the official development agency of most of the mainstream denominations except the Roman Catholics, has the detailed links with church and community groups in many countries to enable close contact with the partners on the ground. I would like to thank the parish for its continued and generous support of Christian Aid Week.

I want to commend and report on the World Food Programme partnership, which I consider to be a highly effective example of Christian Aid's work. The three areas in which the project operates are all affected by severe food shortages and the long-term impacts of armed conflict.

The project also has the advantage that any money which we give to it will be multiplied 20 times by the World Food Programme (WFP). This means that a donation from the parish, for example, of £500 would become a grant of £10,000 to the project. That really is effective giving.

In the past, the parish has supported this project which provides hope to many:

*"in north-east **Nigeria**, indiscriminate violence by insurgent groups has left over nine million people without enough food to eat."*

1,640 households (8,200 people) have benefitted from the livelihood project in Borno state in the six months up to April 2023. This involves livestock and fish farming, and in addition, income-generating loans groups have been established.

*"in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**, decades of conflict have displaced 6.2 million people from their homes and left 27 million people facing hunger (UNHCR)."*

60,000 people were reached in the first cash distribution of 2023, providing resources for food for three months. 1,570 breastfeeding mothers, 912 infants (0-6 months) and 662 children (6-23 months) were health screened.

*"Bangladesh is hosting more than 900,000 Rohingya driven out of Myanmar who now live in refugee camps."*

Through the project 3,000 families received cash for work in 2022-3, four times as many as in previous years, and 15,500 trees were planted.

As the update from Christian Aid on the project indicates, this is a well-regarded project.

*"In Nigeria, WFP has awarded a further grant for 2023 to assist many more households in need of food and ways to earn a living. In Bangladesh, our income scheme is now reaching more than four times as many people as when we last updated you. In the DRC, WFP has ranked Christian Aid amongst the best humanitarian organisations in the vast Kasai province, an area of great need."*

It has been agreed that we will be holding another red-bucket collection in early November so that we can support this excellent programme again this year, to give long-term hope and practical support to these communities.

*Roger Williamson*

If we consider ourselves to be part of a continuum of life that does not end with death, but transitions to a life after life, our perspectives can change. Barbara Holmes

## *The Steyning Society*

**Friday 17 November at 7:00 for 7:30pm**  
**The Steyning Centre, Talk will begin at 7:30pm**  
**Royal Yachts Under Sail by Brian Lavery**



Brian is the former Curator of the Chatham Historic Dockyard and of the Royal Maritime Museum. He has written over 40 books mainly on maritime history and advised on the film Master and Commander.

The doors are open at 7pm here will be wine or sparkling elderflower on arrival (monetary donations welcome) and there will be a bring and buy sale.

Free to members and £5 guests. All very welcome to attend.



# Recipe for November

## BONFIRE NIGHT BAKED POTATOES

### Ingredients

4 medium baking potatoes  
2 tbsp olive oil  
25g butter  
1 large onion, finely sliced  
6 slices smoked streaky bacon, chopped  
2 tbsp double cream  
200g mixed good melting cheese, such as reblochon, raclette or gruyère  
chopped parsley, to serve



### Method

1. Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Prick the potatoes all over with a fork, then rub with half the oil, some sea salt and black pepper. Arrange on a baking tray and bake in the oven for about 1 hr 15 mins, until their skins are crisp and they are completely tender when prodded.
2. Meanwhile, heat the remaining oil and half the butter in a frying pan. Add the onion and gently cook for 15-20 mins until softened and golden. Remove from the pan and set aside, add the chopped bacon and fry until just crisp. Remove using a slotted spoon and place on kitchen paper.
3. Halve each potato lengthways (watch out, they will be hot), then scoop out most of the potato into a bowl, leaving a potato skin shell with a thin layer of potato. In the bowl, crush the potato with the remaining butter and the double cream. Season with salt and pepper. Fold through the onion, bacon, three-quarters of the cheeses and half the parsley.
4. Spoon back into the potato shells and top with the remaining cheese. Transfer to the baking tray and return to the oven for 10-15 mins, until melting and golden. Sprinkle with the remaining parsley.
5. Serve with sausages or wrap them up in tin foil to take with you to your firework display.



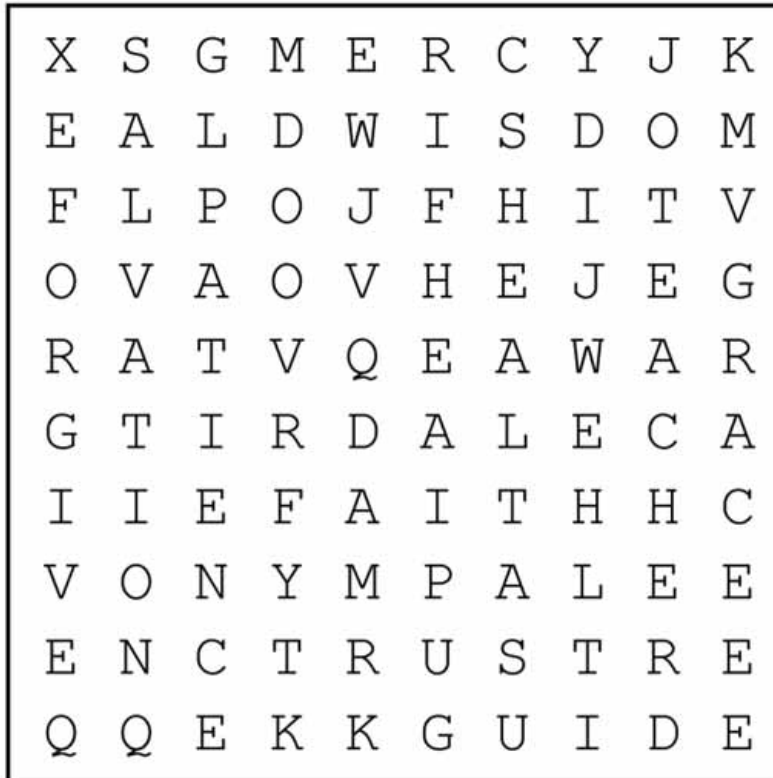
# Just for Families

Bible Word Search

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## God is Love



Word list:

FAITH  
FORGIVE  
GRACE  
GUIDE  
HEAL  
LOVE  
MERCY  
PATIENCE  
SALVATION  
TEACHER  
TRUST  
WISDOM

# Anagram for November

The anagram for November is:  
**CORNERSTONE**

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

*I have a **corn** on **one** toe.*

*(Yes I really do—but there are some better longer words this month.....Have a go!)*

I've had a strange fascination with slugs since I was a little boy. Back then I believed that they were homeless snails that had lost their shells. It turns out I was right. Sort of. The whole eviction process had started as far back as the murky Mesozoic when some land snails cast off the shackles of a shell and evolved into slugs for some truly independent living. Sure, shells are great for protection and will help you to avoid drying out but they're clunky and require calcium to construct. Without them you can roam anywhere and (to namecheck another mollusc) the world's your oyster.



The slug's shell has never been completely lost — a fragment remains hidden under their skin, a tiny, shrunken souvenir of their snail ancestry. Another link to their slimy dynasty is that all slugs, like all snails, are both male and female. As hermaphrodites, they possess both sets of sexual organs and this means that, if the situation dictates, they can go it alone and simply self-fertilise to produce their offspring. A true state of independence. Self-fertilisation creates a clone - or in a slug's case hundreds of clones – but the problem with inbreeding is a lack of genetic variability. Clones all possess the same weaknesses. An entire slug population can be wiped out by the same parasites and pathogens. To produce varied and resilient

offspring, most slugs go in for the more old-fashioned approach of finding a partner for a quick rustle in the undergrowth.



But one garden slug species has turned this chore into art - a flamboyant celebration of a lack of independence. The spotted and striped Leopard Slugs start their performance by chasing each other around a tree, giving each other sonic,

sensuous strokes and cheeky nibbles. Then they climb along a branch, and descend on a rope made of their own mucous. Here, hanging in mid-air, the slugs evert their sexual organs, entwining them to create a moonlit globe. This graceful, balletic performance must be one of the most mesmerising sights on our planet. If you search hard enough, you can find beauty in the strangest places. Still, if I was strolling through the woods at night, I'd hate to walk into it face-first.

*Michael Blencowe*



## *Ephesians 2 v 19 - 22*

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

## *Romans 15:13*

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



*Steyning Parish Church has been awarded the Eco Silver Award 2023. It is proudly displayed within the lychgate. More information will be given in the December magazine.*