

Church Magazine

FREE



MARCH 2024

Steyning and Ashurst

Steyning Parish Church

1 Vicarage Lane,
Steyning BN44 3YL

Vicar: The Revd Mark Heather LLB BA

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vicarofsteyning@gmail.com or rectorofashurst@gmail.com

Church Services

The Vicar and Churchwardens wish everyone a blessed Holy Week and at the end of the month, a happy Easter.

St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

Every Sunday

8:00am 1662 Holy Communion Service

9:30am Sung Eucharist Music Group Eucharist on 18 March

6:00pm Evening Service Reflections on 1st Sunday - see below
Choral Evensong on 18 March

St James's

10:30am Second Sunday Family Service for Mothering Sunday
31 March 11:00am Easter Day Eucharist

Wednesdays at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's

11:30am Midweek Eucharist

Reflections is a quiet, evening service. This month it is held on Sunday, 4 March and is entitled "Faith".

Passiontide begins on 17 March

For services between Palm Sunday (24 March) and Easter Day, see page 5.

Parish Office Address:

Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning, BN44 3YB Tel: 813276

office@steyningparishchurch.org

www.steyningparishchurch.org

Parish Administrator: Pat McMullan.

Parish Office open: Tuesday - Friday 10am - midday



Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends,

Three brothers claimed to love their grandmother. The first was very diligent about visiting every week and always bought her presents, but everyone knew that he was really after her money. The second said that he loved her very much, but rarely managed to see her, and when he did, he always had an eye on his watch, in a hurry to get away. The third was rather disorganised and forgetful, but apologised on those occasions when he missed her birthday by a day or two, and always felt he could never do enough to show his love for her. Of the three brothers, it was he who missed his grandmother most when she died.

The funny thing about the grandmother was that she loved all the three brothers equally.

Such is God's love for us. A wise man, Philip Yancey (in his bestselling book, *What's So Amazing About Grace?* 1997) wrote:

*'There is nothing we can do to make God love us more
and there is nothing we can do to make God love us less.'*

As Lent moves on into Passiontide, as we look forward to our Palm Sunday procession and the services of Holy Week, let's think about our own relationship with the God who forgives us even before we seek forgiveness. We know (or ought to know) that we can never do enough to return that love. But that's not really the point. It's not about us. Holy Week gives us the chance to stand in the presence of the love that changes everything. The love that dies for the world, and for each of us – love in which we find the fulness of life which, through the amazing gift of grace, even we can exemplify (John 10:10).

Fr Mark

*O dearly, dearly has he loved,
And we must love him too,
And trust in his redeeming Blood,
And try his works to do.*

Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)

FROM THE EDITOR:

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

We extend our love and deep concern for The Holy Land and all the Bible lands.

We are in Lent for all of March, see some reflections (p 7). We will be celebrating Mothering Sunday and then enter into the story of Holy Week, all leading to the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday, March 31. All the church services are listed in this edition (see p5).

Thank you to all who send in their articles and thoughts providing a rich variety for us to read. You are welcome to join these contributors.

Do please send to:

steyningchurchmag@gmail.com

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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Holy Week and Easter Day Services

PALM SUNDAY 24 March

9.30 a.m. Palm Procession & Sung Eucharist at Steyning.

Ride on! Ride on in Majesty! The crowds welcome Jesus to Jerusalem.

Monday 25 March, Tuesday 26 March, Wednesday 27 March

11:30a.m. Holy Communion with Meditation.

Simple contemplative services at Steyning.

MAUNDY THURSDAY 28 March

7 p.m. Liturgy of the Day at Steyning.

Jesus shares the last supper with his disciples.

We keep watch in the Garden of Gethsemane.

GOOD FRIDAY 29 March

Midday. Liturgy of the Cross with Holy Communion, at Steyning.

2 p.m. Stations of the Cross at Ashurst.

7:30 p.m. Sacred Concert at Steyning. (Rutter's Requiem see P23)

We worship at the foot of the cross.

EASTER EVE 30 March

8 p.m. Vigil and blessing the Easter Garden at Steyning.

Rejoice heavenly powers! Sing choirs of angels!

EASTER DAY 31 March

9.30 a.m. Choral Eucharist of Easter Morning, Steyning.

11:00 a.m. Parish Communion of Easter Morning, Ashurst.

Jesus Christ is risen today! Alleluia!



We celebrate the resurrection of Jesus with an Easter Egg Hunt for the children at both Steyning and Ashurst.

There will be an 8 am Eucharist every Sunday in March and April as usual.



Prayer Diary for March

Sunday 3 March The Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday 10 March The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

Sunday 17 March The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)

Tuesday 19 March Joseph of Nazareth

God our Father, who from the family of your servant David raised up Joseph, the carpenter to be the guardian of your incarnate Son and husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary; give us grace to follow him in faithful obedience to your commandments;

Sunday 24 March Palm Sunday

Monday 25 March Monday of Holy Week

Collect for each day of Holy Week Almighty and everlasting God, who in the tender love towards the human race sent your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross: grant that we may follow the example of his patience and humility, and also be made partakers of his resurrection.

Tuesday 26 March Tuesday of Holy Week

Wednesday 27 March Wednesday of Holy Week

Thursday 28 March Maundy Thursday

Friday 29 March Good Friday

Almighty Father, look with mercy on this your family for which our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of sinners and to suffer death upon the cross; who is alive and glorified with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Saturday 30 March Easter Eve

Grant, Lord, that we who are baptised into the death of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ may continually put to death our evil desires and be buried with him; and that through the grave and gate of death we may pass to our joyful resurrection; through his merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sunday 31 March Easter Day



Parish Registers

BAPTISM

21 January 2024

Tobias John Barraclough (Toby) Davey

Thank you...

The family of Andrew Lock, and Andrew himself, wish to thank you for your prayers over the past two and a half years.

Andrew is now free of cancer. *Praise be to God.*

Passiontide

I often think that the different terminologies of the Church of England are hard to understand and a bit confusing, but of course all of them come from historical theological discussions and agreements. The younger and less experienced me knew that Palm Sunday had the other name, Passion Sunday, but now I have learned that the season of Passiontide starts just a week before that so we all can prepare ourselves for the seriousness of the events of Holy Week and Easter.

Interestingly, Palm Sunday celebrations have changed little throughout time, with the procession of palm branches and the reading of the Passion narrative. This year the narrative will come from St Mark's Gospel.

In the early years of this century there was a very controversial film, "The Passion of the Christ". It was said to focus only on the physicality of Christ's suffering. I am sure some of you have seen it. A hard and disturbing watch that portrayed it as it was for a bystander, showing Jesus' own physical suffering. But Jesus' passion, suffering and death happened because of his compassion and passion for this world; because of his love for us, his friends; because of the honesty and frustration that speak to us. Perhaps this year, whilst we consider anew the events of Holy Week we could look at that story as one of both Passion and Compassion. Jesus' sacred passion was not context free, it was not an exchange, it was not an abstract debt repayment, and it did not come to just somehow make everything OK. It was his final scene in a life of the deepest compassion overflowing in love. Our Christian witness



in this world of war, turmoil, unrest, jealousies and so much more is that we are called to share Christian compassion and Christ's passion. How? Completely up to you, but I am mindful that for me it will mean prayer. A little more prayer than normal ... It could mean a little more care for other people and our fragile world, and perhaps a little more thought as to how I can help and protect the vulnerable. All this is about compassion that is safe in my knowledge and surety of Christ's triumph over death. These are very personal things I share with you, but more openly we all can share in the passion of Holy Week together and walk with Jesus through the events remembering and seeing with new eyes his compassion and love for his disciples and for all humankind.

At that first Palm Sunday great theatre was acted out as Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey, but first the huge importance that the disciples get only this one animal. No other. It was not the grand assignment for the disciples that they imagined. Maybe we are reminded that doing the seemingly mundane tasks in life are essential towards a larger, whole and important picture. Jesus enters Jerusalem in a way that is new and visionary, and he enacts a picture of kingship at complete odds with the Roman Empire who were acting to subdue Jerusalem by force. He disturbs the political leaders; he disturbs the religious leaders; he disappoints all those who were up and ready for a tussle of a violent revolution. Jerusalem is disrupted by the arrival of a joyful and peaceable large crowd who had gathered followers as they travelled from Jericho. Here, the politics Jesus is highlighting are all about power and fear, and his riding on a colt allows the people to think about the right of those seemingly in power to determine the politics and that a new way might be possible. The power Jesus is showing is one that is life-giving, compassionate, merciful and kind. "Do not be afraid" Jesus says.

"Holy is the week...Holy, consecrated, belonging to God... We move from hosannas to horror with the predictable ease of those who know not what they do.

Our hosannas sung, our palms waved, let us go with passion into this week. It is a time to curse fig trees that do not yield fruit. It is a time to cleanse our temples of any blasphemy. It is a time to greet Jesus as the Lord's Anointed One, to lavishly break our alabaster and pour perfume out for him without counting the cost. It is a time for preparation...The time to give thanks and break bread is upon us. The time to give thanks and drink of the cup is imminent. Eat, drink, remember: On this night of nights, each one must ask, as we dip our bread in the wine, "Is it I?" And on that darkest of days, each of us must stand beneath the tree and watch the dying if we are to be there when

the stone is rolled away.

The only road to Easter morning is through the unrelenting shadows of that Friday. Only then will the alleluias be sung; only then will the dancing begin" (Ann Weems, Kneeling in Jerusalem, p. 67.)

As Jesus carries his cross to his place of crucifixion, the crowds gather around the roadside to watch him - spectators at this painful journey just watching, and Simon of Cyrene had come to Jerusalem from the country to watch too. But he didn't just remain a spectator. He was drawn in with compassion as Jesus stumbles, ready and willing to take up Jesus's cross for a time to give him some relief. Luke tells us that Simon was seized by the soldiers to help Jesus, but whichever way round, Simon was willing to help. Sometimes in life, God uses people to "seize" us, to wake us up to the compassion needed for a situation, and to then willingly take the extra step or two so involvement becomes service, as symbolised by Simon of Cyrene.

During Passiontide this Lent I hope I am not going to be a bystander just watching, a passive spectator looking at the list of the Holy Week services, but not actively entering into some of them and experiencing the beautiful liturgies of them. I will try, and maybe God will "seize" me and I will find myself taking up the cross of Christ and walking on.

Chris Fitton

Ubi Caritas

*Where charity and love are found, God is there.
The love of Christ has gathered us into one body.
Let us rejoice and be joyful in him.
Let us revere and love the living God,
and with a sincere heart, let us love one another.
Where charity and love are found, God is there.
Amen.*

Prayers for Times of Crisis in Jerusalem and all the Holy Land

God of light and salvation, our refuge and our strength,
We pray for the people of Israel and Palestine amid the escalating violence.

We pray for those killed and injured in southern Israel. May your rod and staff comfort them. We pray for those who are grieving, may they know your ever present help.

We pray for the protection of those who have been taken hostage by Hamas. As they walk through this dark valley may they fear no evil.

We pray for all the civilians of Gaza. May they know that their help comes from the maker of heaven and earth.

And we pray for those in leadership in Gaza and Israel. May you guide them along the right paths. We ask all this in union with Christ and trusting in the power of your Holy Spirit.



God of all justice and peace we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land.

Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths - Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land.

While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call for you to bring justice and equity to the people.

Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father.

How long, O Lord, can we hide our faces from the headlines of violence and tragedy?
How long, O Lord, must the soul of humanity bear the pain of trauma and loss, and have sorrow in its heart all day long?

Consider and answer us, O Lord our God! Give protection to all those living in fear of death. Give strength to endure so tragedy will not prevail.

Give guidance to decision makers who are on the ground. Give compassion to hearts weary with fatigue. We trust in your steadfast love, our hearts will rejoice in your salvation,
How long, O Lord, will we bring our prayers of lament to you?

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord we pray.

*Christian Aid
Based on Psalm 13*



Pray for Ukraine and World 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 the people of Russia:

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

We pray for all whose lives have been touched by tragedy, whether by accident or a deliberate act.

For those who mourn, immerse them in your love and lead them through this darkness into your arms, and light.

For those who comfort, be in both the words they use and all that's left unspoken; fill each heart with love.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, whose own suffering brought us life, here and for eternity.

*Most gracious God and Father, in whose will is our peace,
Turn our hearts and the hearts of all to yourself, that by the power of your Spirit the
peace which is founded on righteousness may be established throughout the whole
world; through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Gifts and Talents

You may remember that towards the end of 2023 we asked Steyning parishioners to fill in a survey, either on paper or online. This came about through our participation in the diocesan 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' programme, in which we were one of eight churches chosen for 2023 to examine church growth.

We feel that everybody is of value; we all have different God-given gifts, and have each built up a wealth of knowledge and experience over the years. But all too often we never learn of these until it is too late. Added to that is our desire to be a fully inclusive community in which we want to encourage everybody to play a part. St Paul says, in his letter to the Corinthians, "God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be?" All of our different talents go to make up a community in which each plays a part, so we are truly a body rather than a collection of individuals.

The 56 or so responses to the survey have now been analysed – a rather complex task. That was a good rate of return, so thank you all. Our hope is to establish teams to help with all aspects of running the church community rather than relying on the odd one or two individuals. But first we need to find team leaders from among the respondents. The next step will be for you to expect a contact from a team leader to find out a bit more about your skills and interests and how you may like to fit in – we stress it's all voluntary, there's no pressure. The aim is as much to make everybody feel needed and included as to get jobs done around the church.

Two final points. Just because you may have missed the survey doesn't mean it's too late. If you have any talents or experience you think could be put to good use then please have a chat with one of the wardens or clergy. Or, for example, if you would like to be included in the rota for readers or intercessors, cleaners, caterers, flower arrangers etc, or maybe would like to now learn to occasionally help with serving at the altar – you will be warmly welcomed. And secondly, one person responded that the survey was too parochial and we should be looking to spread the word outside. Yes, we understand, and that's another aim altogether if we are to grow our church and our faith. We have to grow our own community first, rather as Jesus did by starting with a small band of disciples.

Bill Thomson & Sarah Lavery, Churchwardens



World Day of Prayer 2024

Once again the World Day of Prayer theme and service is very relevant for this year. Several years ago the ecumenical international organisation World Day of Prayer asked Christian women of Palestine to use the theme *'I beg you, bear with one another in love'* in order to write this year's service. It was written, translated into the many languages and distributed to organisations by early 2023. How very important that we should be praying with women of Palestine at this time. This year our local service will be held at

**The Hub at Beeding on
Friday 1 March at 2pm.**

Please join us and share in this prayerful service and then share some refreshments with us. If you have any questions please contact me through the church office.

Elizabeth Brown

'I beg you, bear with one another in love'

Earth Hour 23 March 8:30pm

Since 2007, Earth Hour has been known as the "lights off" moment, with individuals from around the globe switching off their lights to show symbolic support for the planet and to raise awareness of the environmental issues affecting it.

We are now at a tipping point with our climate and nature crises, putting at risk the fate of our one home and all our futures. We are on course to breach the 1.5°C temperature increase limit set by the Paris Climate Agreement, and nature is also facing alarming rates of loss globally.

So, this year, **Earth Hour invites you to switch off and spend 60 minutes doing something** – anything – positive for our planet.

Just 60 minutes? Yes, just one hour. It may not seem like much, but the magic happens when we, and those like us in Asia and Africa, North and South America, Oceania and Europe – supporters in over 190 countries and territories – all give an hour for our one home, creating the Biggest Hour for Earth.

Some ideas for what you can do in an hour:

- ◇ Read any two articles about biodiversity, nature loss, or climate change; watch an educational video; or listen to a podcast or talk. See www.earthhour.org for lots of ideas.
- ◇ Join Greening Steyning or Steyning Downland Scheme and find out how you can get involved locally. <https://greeningsteyning.org/> <https://steyningdownland.org/>
- ◇ Join our Churchyard Group and help improve the biodiversity of our historic churchyard. Contact wardens@steyningparishchurch.org

Together let's make this the **Biggest Hour for Earth.**

Christine Aubrey

Just a thought ...

PASS IT ON

"How can I ever thank you enough?" "You can't", said Juliet, "just pass it on".

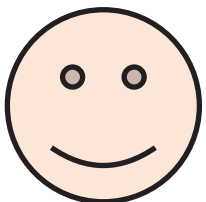
I wonder if someone at sometime in the midst of a chat has said a phrase, sentence or a word that has never left you? It happened to me 56 years ago.

Ray was a Naval Chaplain in Londonderry, just before 'the Troubles' . We were living with our two little boys in a Married Quarter several miles from the Naval Base. I was in the early stages of pregnancy and had been told to stay in bed for several weeks as a miscarriage had threatened. Living close by was Juliet with her two even younger little boys, possibly the busiest of those living around us. She was a quiet, kind person who I hadn't known particularly well. "Don't worry" she said, " I'll bring over lunch each day", and she did. She was quite wonderful. Eventually everything settled and all was well.

It was later that I remember saying "Juliet, how can I ever thank you enough?" "You can't", she replied, "Just pass it on". Then she moved on, as did we, and our paths never crossed again. But what a special legacy she left me, never to be forgotten.

There have been more 'Juliets' in our lives since then, especially during the last 18 months. How grateful we are that our Church has many such people. They have 'Looked out', seen a need, and responded with immense kindness. We are so very grateful.

It can be hard to RECEIVE kindness - I'm being very honest here! As age catches up we mustn't be tempted to feel 'useless'. We can pray for World situations, - Wars, drought, floods, starvation, the list is endless. At home the homeless, the hungry, the hurting, the abused and so on. For our Church, and for those on the Prayer List.



And remember, a smile and a word or a chat at the right moment may brighten the day for a lonely soul.

Jesus told us to 'love our neighbour as ourselves'.

Maureen Jones

Prayer Points for March

- For Christians around the world who are being persecuted for their faith.
- For all who are victims of power
- For NHS staff working in this country and abroad, especially in areas of conflict
- For our three schools in this area as they end a term and begin their Easter holidays. For all young people preparing for exams next term.
- For all who live and work in King Alfred's Close and all who visit there. For the new FSW committee.
- For all those taking the Croft Meadow service on March 18.
- For the PCCs of both churches as they prayerfully consider all their developments, daily meetings and Church services.



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**

The Steyning Society

Friday 15 March at 7 for 7:30 at The Steyning Centre,
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission by Ian Everest

During 1985, Ian started researching his family history and this has led to local history talks. He attended Plumpton Agricultural College in the late 1960's, but had a change of direction in 1987 when he became manager of Newhaven Fort.

The doors are open at 7pm and there will be wine or sparkling elderflower, (monetary donations welcome) on arrival.

Talk will begin at 7:30.

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

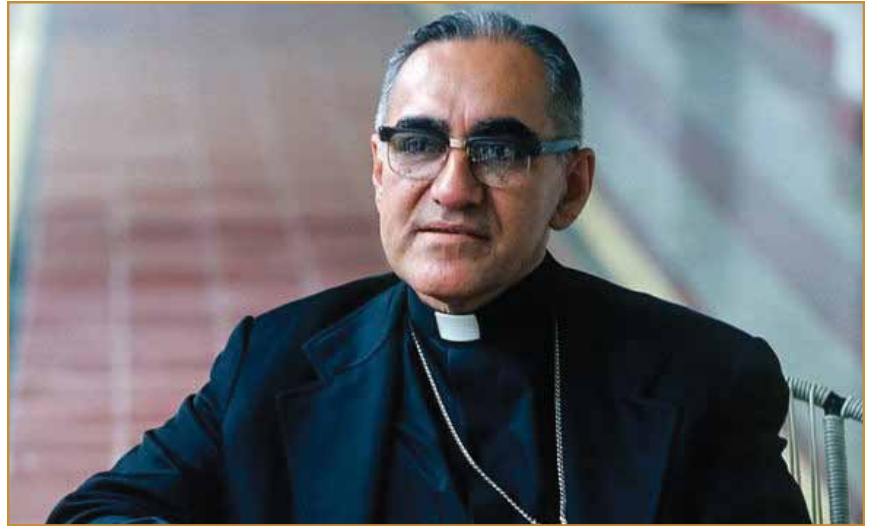


Saint of the month

ARCHBISHOP

OSCAR ROMERO,

MARTYR (1917-1980)



Oscar Romero was born in El Salvador in 1917. He was educated locally and graduated from the National Seminary. He then completed his studies at the

Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained priest in 1942 and stayed in Rome to sit for a doctoral degree in theology. However, before finishing, he was summoned by his bishop to return to El Salvador.

He travelled back by ship which made a stop in Cuba where he was detained by the Cuban police having come from the Fascist regime in Italy. He spent time in internment camps and, on becoming ill, was transferred to hospital from where he was released from custody and sailed for Mexico.

On returning home, Romero worked tirelessly as a parish priest in San Miguel for over twenty years. He became exhausted by his devotion to the poor of the parish and, in 1966, went to a monastery for rest and retreat. From there he became secretary to the Bishops' Conference of El Salvador.

In 1970 Romero was consecrated bishop, rising to be Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977. Many of the clergy were disappointed in the appointment, seeing him as a conservative and traditionalist who would not support their stance of liberation theology committed to the poor. However, Romero was profoundly affected when a priest friend was assassinated and said "If they killed him for acting out his vocation, I too have to walk the same path". He urged the government to investigate the murder but they ignored the request.

Romero started speaking out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations and torture but this was ignored by the censored press. In 1979 the Revolutionary Government Junta came to power leading to the escalation of violence and Romero

criticised the United States Government for giving military aid to the Junta. He gained an enormous following among the people by broadcasting his sermons weekly across the country. In addition, the weekly diocesan newspaper carried lists of cases of torture and repression. As a result Romero made enemies in high places at home whilst, internationally, being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

On 24 March 1980 he celebrated Mass in the chapel of the Hospital of Divine Providence which specialised in oncology and care for the terminally ill. After he had preached his sermon he went back to the altar and a gunman entered the chapel and shot him through the heart. 250,000 people from all over the world attended the funeral and Pope John Paul II sent a message saying that he was "a beloved peacemaking man of God". The funeral was interrupted by gunfire from surrounding buildings and it was estimated that some fifty people were killed.

In January 2015 the Curia for the Causes of Saints unanimously recognised Romero as a martyr and his beatification was held in San Salvador Cathedral naming 24 March, the day of his death, as his Feast Day. In the UK he is remembered with a statue of him on the west front of Westminster Abbey among the saints of the twentieth century.

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:
**"Steyning Boozers, and
how my life was changed"**

Speaker: Len Warner

Date: Tuesday 19 March

Doors open at 3:45 for 4:00 start

Any enquiries please to:
Leonard Warner (01903 812752)

MEMORIAL BOOK

To arrange for someone's name to be added to the memorial book in the north aisle of Steyning Parish Church please complete a form found at the back of church. There is a suggested donation of at least £10, to include the cost of all the calligraphy.



Steyning History Society

Wednesday 13 March, in The Steyning Centre,
at 7:30pm for 7:45pm start

**NOT JUST SEASIDE HUMOUR
(20th CENTURY POSTCARDS)**

Alan Barwick

Visitors Welcome - £5

The Arts Society

Copies, Curtains & Ways Of Looking: Experiencing Paintings In The Past
Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe

Monday 11 March 2024 10am The Steyning Centre, Fletchers Croft, Steyning BN44 3XZ

How does our experience of living with and looking at artwork today compare to earlier centuries? This lecture considers the very different conditions in which paintings were displayed and enjoyed in the past, as well as the different responses they evoked. It draws on the evidence within paintings for the many surprising ways in which people handled, hung, used and responded to the art that they owned.

Chantal has an MA in History of Art from Edinburgh and a PhD from the Warburg Institute, London University. She has taught at Sotheby's Institute of Art, and as a freelance lecturer for a number of societies and institutions in London. Having also trained as a paintings conservator, she brings a deeper understanding to her lectures.

Free to members; visitors £10 donation steyning@theartsociety.org

From 1 February Steyning Parish Church Office

is now Open Tuesday to Friday every week

from 10.00 am until 12.00 pm

01903 813276 office@steyningparishchurch.org

Shoreham Chamber Choir

SHOREHAM CHAMBER CHOIR CONCERT

April 13 at 7:30pm

Steining Parish Church



On Saturday 13 April 2024 at 7:30pm in
St Andrew's and St Cuthman's Church,
Shoreham Chamber Choir will sing a

programme of sacred and secular music by Stanford, Pärt, Rachmaninov, Gjeilo,
Duruflé Morley, Holst, Elgar and Byrd

(including sections from his three, four and five part masses).

Shoreham Chamber Choir sing mainly 'a capella' sacred and secular music from
16th to 21st century. They were formed over 40 years ago by a group of local
singers who had a mutual love of choral music. The present conductor is James
Elias, who has a particular interest in conducting small choirs and has directed the
choir since 2021. They have sung at many venues locally, and toured
Germany, France and Norway.

Tickets will be available at the door (£13) and refreshments will be available
during the interval. (Cash or Card)

Please do come along – we look forward to welcoming you.

A colorful graphic that says "thank you!" in a playful, multi-colored font. The word "thank" is in blue and yellow, and "you!" is in red and blue. The exclamation mark is also in blue.

*Ros Golds and her family would
like to say how moved they were
by all the lovely messages of
Congratulations and Best
Wishes for Ros's 90th Birthday.
They wish to say a Very Big
Thank you to everyone*

Health at home, in hospital, and in poor countries

I went into hospital on July 31 last year and came out on September 8. I am deeply grateful to the NHS and for all the support and prayers from family, friends - and this church. After my initial cancer operation I had a dozen more general anaesthetics while in hospital. I had a running joke with the medical staff whenever they told me I was going down to theatre again: I would ask what we were going to see – perhaps “Much Ado About Nothing”, or “All’s Well that Ends Well”. I am still under treatment, so I think I qualify as a frequent flyer on the NHS.

The stay in hospital made me want to understand the NHS better. Among my reading, I recommend the work of Dr Gavin Francis, a Scottish GP who has also worked abroad, and Lord Nigel Crisp, who used to run the NHS. When Crisp wrote the first edition of his book, *Turning the World Upside Down*, the NHS was the fourth largest organization in the world, with 1.3 million employees. “Only the Chinese Army, the Indian Railways and Wal-Mart [were] larger”. As you will know, it offers its services to all citizens “equally, regardless of their ability to pay.” (p.4) Unlike the bad old days, no-one British needs to fear illness because of inability to pay or to save up to have money to pay for the doctor.

Many of the nurses who looked after me in St Richard's, Chichester, were from the Philippines. I asked them why they wanted to work here. One said that she preferred the NHS model – for example, in the Philippines a patient would not get an MRI scan or CT scan until the family could pay for it. She was amazed that whatever the treatment doctors think is best for their patients is just authorised there and then. Others wanted the experience of working abroad. The money they could send home is important, too. The Philippines purposely trains more nurses than they need, and in 2010 had “agreements on recruitment with 82 countries”, (*Crisp, Turning the World, p. 70*)

As you also know, this is election year and the NHS will be a high-profile issue, not least because the Prime Minister has pledged to bring waiting lists down. Since it is so important for his electoral chances, I predict that every effort will be made to ensure that this happens – perhaps only another major pandemic like COVID or further strikes, will de-rail the big push to reduce the over 7.5 million people on waiting lists.

The signs of strain on the system cannot be denied. 1.6 million people on mental health waiting lists. 110,000 unfilled vacancies in NHS England, including 43,000 nurses missing. Staff are under pressure - by many accounts 2022-3 was the worst winter on record. Stress levels are high – suicide rates for medical staff are 24% higher than those in the general population. (*see Francis, Free for All*). So, for the above reasons, and many more, it is essential that the system works well.

The NHS has a budget of £153 billion, but we spend less as a percentage of GDP and are falling behind in standards, measured against comparable European countries, according to the British Medical Journal. It is a myth that a huge amount of the budget goes on administration: “about 2% of the NHS workforce are managers, compared with about 9.5% in most industries.” (*Francis, The NHS Crisis*)

What can be done? In the UK, I am with Dr Francis in his argument from *Free for All*. The NHS is worth saving. Attention must be given to social care as well as the NHS; to GPs and nurses as well as hospital waiting lists. Above all, as happened from 1997 with the major investment over a sustained period in the NHS by the Blair government, health care must move up the voter’s agenda, we must be prepared to pay more for it as well as looking for efficiency savings, and we should use our votes wisely, pray for and support NHS staff.

Internationally, as we take so many medical staff from poor countries, we should pay for more training of health staff and strengthening health care systems in these countries from the aid budget – which has taken a severe hit since the abolition of the Department for International Development. We should also give renewed attention to the international debt crisis. If poor countries are paying high levels of interest on debt repayments, they cannot maintain health budgets. We should also be concerned about the impact of war on already fragile health systems – as we see on our TVs with the bombing of Gaza.

A final word from the late Desmond Tutu’s commendation of Lord Crisp’s book: “In today’s joined-up world we are all connected and the health of one person or nation affects us all. In this important and timely book Nigel Crisp describes how we can all learn from each other, rich and poor, and work together to improve health”.

Roger Williamson

Resources:

*I recommend two books by Nigel Crisp, **Turning the World Upside Down Again** and **Health is Made at Home, Hospital is for Repairs**. See also an one hour presentation on the two books on youtube*

*Further: Dr Gavin Francis, **Free for All: Why the NHS is worth saving**. See also his article in The Guardian, “The NHS crisis and how to fix it” <https://followthelights.co.uk/the-guardian-long-read-how-to-fix-the-nhs> (24.08.2023)*

Tom and I would like to thank everyone who sent messages, cards, food, flowers and who held us in their prayers during the time of my recent surgery. We felt wonderfully supported and it has really helped in my ongoing recovery.

With love and thanks.

Christine Aubrey

thank you

Tower Roof Repair Project

Over the last year or so, significant water ingress has been noted in the church tower. The five-yearly inspection carried out in 2023 by our architect identified decay and rot in the roof timbers, confirmed by a specialist surveyor. The cause seems to be inadequate rainwater run-off arrangements at the top of the tower, combined with blocked gutters and defective gutter joints.

A structural engineer has inspected the timbers and prepared a report, and our quantity surveyor has provided detailed costings of the work required, which is estimated at £187,000, including contingencies and overheads, plus professional fees at around £37,400.

The necessity of raising funds and carrying out the repairs means that the other improvements proposed under our Five-Year Plan are likely to be delayed. The tower work is provisionally scheduled to be undertaken in Spring/Summer 2025. It is hoped that grants can be obtained towards this important work on our Grade I listed building, to supplement the money in our own building fund and the hoped-for contribution from the Friends of Steyning Parish Church.



Portrait of **Queen Elizabeth II**, this portrait was drawn by Reynolds Stone. The engraving of the portrait was executed by Alan Dow when he worked at Bradbury Wilkinson and Company. Austin's portrait depicts Her Majesty wearing the George IV State Diadem and a necklace of three matched strings of pearls, her preferred choice of necklace for informal and semi-formal occasions. The pearl necklace was given to Elizabeth by King George V on the occasion of his Silver Jubilee, on 6 May 1935.

Nigel Alan Dow 1929-2023

Alan Dow died in April last year. After studying photo-engraving and lithography he was apprenticed at the security printer, Bradbury Wilkinson. Alan's specialism in portraiture meant that he was responsible for engraving many portraits of our late Queen, on both postage stamps and bank notes, including most of the portraits (front and back) for the decimalisation bank notes of 1971. In his will, Alan divided a portion of his estate between certain charities, including our own church restoration fund. This legacy of over £50 thousand is an important contribution to the tower roof project. For many years Alan lived with his wife Louise at 95 High Street. Alan left a legacy along with tools and engravings to Steyning Museum, where Louise was once a volunteer. A biography of Alan can be read online at <http://tinyurl.com/AlanDowstamps>

Good Friday Sacred Concert

On Good Friday, 29 March at 7:30pm, the choir of St. Andrew's and St. Cuthman's Church, together with friends from the Chanctonbury Chorus and other guest singers, will be singing John Rutter's 'Requiem', and some shorter pieces of choral music suitable for the occasion. Entry to this sacred concert is free and there will be a retiring collection.

GOOD FRIDAY SACRED CONCERT
Steyping Parish Church at 7:30pm
John Rutter's Requiem

John Rutter's 'Requiem' was first performed in its entirety on 13 October 1985 at the United Methodist Church, Dallas, Texas, and was conducted by the composer. It was composed in memory of his father who had died the previous year and whose initials appear in the dedication. The Requiem achieved almost immediate success and there were over five hundred performances within the first six months of its publication. Since then it has remained a firm favourite, deservedly so because its great optimism and simple musical language make it so attractive to listeners.

Rutter's Requiem is unusual because it does not keep strictly to the conventional catholic liturgy but combines texts from the Requiem Mass and Book of Common Prayer. The seven sections of the work form an arch-like meditation on the themes of life and death. The first and last movements are prayers, the second and sixth are settings of psalms 130 and 23 respectively, the third and fifth are prayers to Christ and the fourth movement, the Sanctus, with its use of the glockenspiel sounds so like the bells traditionally used at this point in the Mass. Rutter has written two versions of the accompaniment for his Requiem; one for medium-sized orchestra, used mainly for concert hall performances and the other for organ and six instruments, flute, oboe, harp, cello, timpani and glockenspiel which is appropriate for the more intimate performances in a church or cathedral.

Support for the Good Friday Sacred Concert has always been wonderful, so please do join us for this special performance on Good Friday. You will be very welcome.

Brian Sawyer

Family Support Work



We would like to send huge thanks to Wendy and Sue for seventeen years of dedicated representation of Steyning Parish Church for FSW.

It will be a hard act to follow, but we have five volunteers to carry on their good work, and we will do our very best to keep supporting this necessary and valuable charity.

We will endeavour to have the usual FSW Coffee and Cake Morning in June or July, so do keep an eye on this space for further information.

Meanwhile

EASTER EGGS

Would members of the congregation, or indeed any community member, like to donate an Easter Egg for the families that are being helped by FSW? Donations can be brought into church during February and up until March 8, when they will be distributed in time for Easter Day. *Thank you.*



FINAL THANKS

With grateful thanks to all our super supporters, for all you do and donate over the year. We look forward to working with you as this year progresses.

Penny Warner,

Yvonne Bamforth, Sandra Humphreys, Sheila Tredgett, Tamzin Ripoley

Steyning and District Churches Together

ADVENT TRAIL

The story of the first Christmas was told with posters and some displays for families to follow along High Street and Church Street in Steyning throughout December 2023. Each poster had some information and a relevant picture and most also had a question for children to discuss with the adult they followed the trail with. The poster about Herod's decree was accompanied by a scroll and the information about Joseph was displayed alongside some woodworker's tools. **Many thanks** to the shops and individuals for displaying the posters.

It was good that all our churches, Steyning Parish Church, Steyning Methodist Church, Church of Christ The King, The Hub at Beeding and St Peter's Church in Beeding were involved in making this event possible. The final designs for the posters, which were very colourful, were mainly the work of Maggie Broad, a member of The Hub, Beeding and committee member of the Steyning and District Churches Together.

We hope that you enjoyed all the images which brought us back to the reason for celebrating Christmas, and thank you for the positive feedback that we have received.

CAROL SINGING AT THE FARMERS MARKET

Music attracted visitors to the Steyning Farmers Market at the beginning of December. There were many members of all of the churches in Steyning and District Churches Together singing carols from 10am for about an hour. We are very grateful to the Lancing Brass of the Royal British Legion, for their enthusiastic accompaniment to our carol singing. It was also a great opportunity to distribute leaflets giving all the information about special services throughout Advent and Christmas in all of our churches. Many thanks also must go to Louise Crush who organised the band to play for the whole morning and gave SDCT this opportunity to reach out to our community.

Elizabeth Brown

*The Churches Together Service at Croft Meadow is on March 18 at 11:30am
You will be very welcome to come and sit and chat with the residents and sing.*

Families and Children's Worker

UPDATE

Steyning Parish Church is recruiting a Families & Children's Worker to offer children 13 and under, and their families/carers, opportunities to encounter and know Jesus, to grow in faith and become disciples of Christ.

The job was advertised on 11 December and widely shared. Interviews took place in mid-February, after this magazine went to press, and we're hopeful that the outcome of this recruitment process can be shared by Easter.

Thanks to everyone who has passed on information about this job to those who might be interested, and to you all for your prayers.

Katherine Heather



Anagram for March

The anagram for this month is:

MOTHERING

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

GOOD LUCK, AND HAVE FUN!!

The Year of the New Testament

We have been asked to pay special attention to the New Testament this year, following on from the Old Testament last year, so I do my best to obey. I'm not sure it's the best way to study them separately; where do we go next year? Perhaps to consider the ways the OT is, or should be used by the NT writers and by modern readers? Who knows.

Anyhow, last month I think I went through the books of the NT with a lick and a promise about each group. You may have noticed I said nothing about the Acts. Since next year is the year for Luke's Gospel and he also wrote Acts it seemed sense to leave it till then and think about them together. Now all I have to do is remember that in the autumn!

Paul's letters are, I think, in descending order of length in the NT, and the other letters follow on under the names of their assumed author. James was senior bishop in Jerusalem, then Peter, and so on. But I have never been clear why the other books appear in the order they do. If Mark is the first Gospel why does Matthew come first in the book? I don't know.

But then, suppose we put them in the order in which they were written, will we learn anything more about the early church with its habits and problems? We have to remember the letters, and to a certain extent the gospels, were not statements of belief but answers or advice on particular matters which were of local concern. Thus the earliest letters, probably Galatians and Thessalonians, tell us the early Christians were greatly concerned about the fate of those who might miss the Second Coming because they had, or had not, died before it happened. Paul sorted them out.

The early church was very confused about gentile converts, non-Jews, who wanted to join, whether to make them become Jews first or let them come straight in. Paul had to decide what to do about Timothy, and the great Council of Jerusalem (Acts 15) issued a decision. The reports are so badly recorded that to this day no-one is quite sure what they decided!

Paul was not the only apostle interfering with the arrangements of local churches. Whoever the John was who wrote Revelation, he began with a sort of Ofsted report on seven Mediterranean churches before he got caught up in his incomprehensible dreams and visions. If you glance at Revelation 3:19 you will see why some clergy refer to church hall refreshments as Laodicean tea.

Senex

Recipe for March

Apologies. The Gluten Free Bread Recipe in the February magazine should read 1.5 lbs Gluten Free Bread Flour NOT 1 lb

CHAMPAGNE & RASPBERRY POSSETS

Becky says this is easy, and a perfect dessert for Mothering Sunday, especially as you can make it ahead.



Makes 2 but can easily be doubled up.

140g frozen raspberries, defrosted

2 tbsp champagne or other dry fizz (buy a mini bottle and treat yourself to a glass while you prepare dinner!)

200ml double cream

4 tbsp golden caster sugar

2 tsp freeze-dried raspberry pieces or 2-3 raspberries

shortbread biscuits, to serve, optional

Method

STEP 1

Put the raspberries and Champagne in a mini food processor or blender (or use a jug and a hand blender). Whizz until the purée is as smooth as you can get it, then use a wooden spoon or spatula to push as much of it through a sieve as you can. Discard the seeds left behind.

STEP 2



Put the cream and sugar in a saucepan and warm gently until the sugar melts. Increase the heat until just boiling, then boil vigorously for 2.5 mins, stirring constantly. Turn off the heat and stir in the raspberry-Champagne purée. Cool for 15 mins before dividing between 2 small pots or glasses. Chill for 30 mins, then sprinkle over the freeze-dried raspberry pieces or whole raspberries and chill for at least 2 hrs more until set (or overnight if you're making ahead).

The Wheatear

It's been a long winter, but rest assured that our summer migrant birds will soon be with us. As you read this, beating hearts and beating wings are powering tiny bodies through north African skies.



Wheatears are our earliest returning African migrants. It's a fast 3,000-mile flight from sub-Saharan Sierra Leone to Sussex for a 1-ounce Wheatear, and they've been recorded migrating at 500 miles a day. The dashing males arrive first, their soft, sun-bleached shades of pink and buff topped with a dapper black bandit's mask. At Sussex Wildlife Trust's Southerham nature reserve near Lewes, you'll see them scurrying over the grazed downland turf or perched along the valley's fence lines. When they fly, Wheatears flash the white rump which gives them their name. Because Wheatears have nothing to do with wheat or ears. Their original name...well, courtesy prevents me from writing their old English name in such an upstanding publication – but let's just say they were named after their white behinds. Victorians and vicars bird watching in mixed company blushed when they were called upon to identify one, so their name was subtly censored.



Wheatear is a more palatable name for a tragically palatable bird. In Sussex, Wheatears were considered a local delicacy and were served at the finest banquets in Lewes, Brighton and Eastbourne. Sussex shepherds would trap them to increase their income; in the late 19th Century the birds fetched 3/6d a dozen (£17:50 today). Shepherds could earn £14 per season (£1,260 today) trapping Wheatears - half their annual wage. Around the town, shepherds were eventually banned from trapping them as it distracted them from their sheep.

Gluttonous gourmets were so desperate for fresh Wheatear that they would prowl the downs and take birds straight from unmanned traps, leaving a pile of coins for the shepherds. In 1900, outspoken and outraged Sussex conservationist W.H Hudson wrote, "It is not fair that Wheatears should be killed merely to enable London stockbrokers, sporting men, and other gorgeous persons who visit the coast, accompanied by ladies with yellow hair, to feed on them at the big Brighton hotels."

But the damage was done. Trapping and the gradual loss of their sheep-grazed downland habitat caused the birds to disappear from the Sussex downs. The Wheatears we now see around Lewes unsurprisingly don't hang around. Each spring they briefly return to their old downland haunts, flash their behinds at the people of Sussex and keep on moving. From Lewes, they'll head onwards to breeding sites in northern England and northern Europe. But for some of these birds, their amazing migration continues for a further 2,000 miles across cold oceans to Greenland and Arctic Canada.

Michael Blencowe

Palm Sunday: St Mark's Gospel



As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'"

They went and found a colt outside in the street, tied at a doorway. As they untied it, some people standing there asked, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They answered as Jesus had told them to, and the people let them go. When they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks over it, he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, while others spread branches they had cut in the fields. Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted,

"Hosanna!"

"Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!"

"Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts. He looked around at everything, but since it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the Twelve.

The Gospel according to St Mark 11:1- 11

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