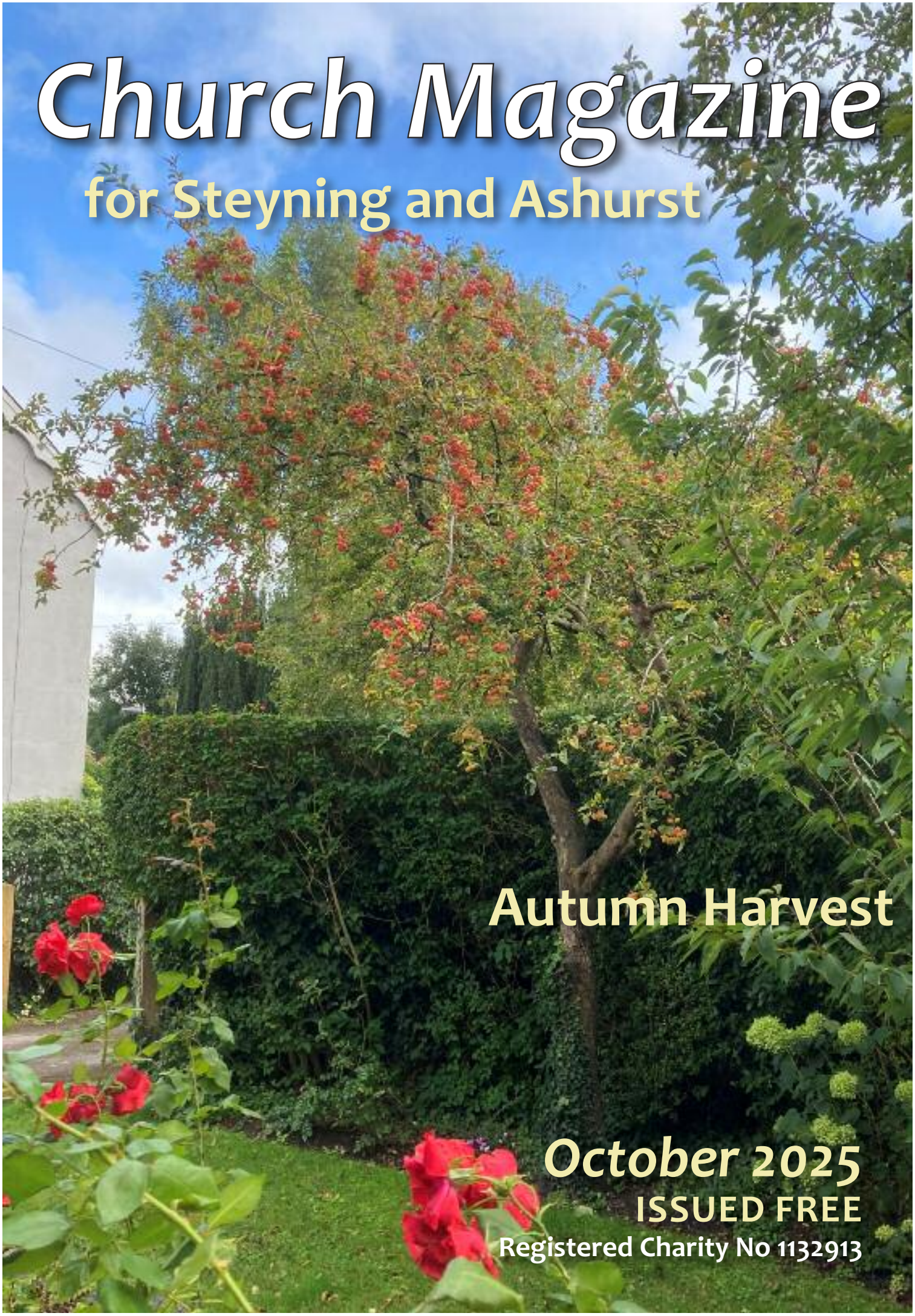
Church Magazine

for Steyning and Ashurst



Autumn Harvest

October 2025

ISSUED FREE

Registered Charity No 1132913

STEYNING PARISH CHURCH

LUNCHTIME

CONCERTS

TUESDAYS

12.30pm – 1pm

7th October - Organ Recital Brian Sawyer

14th October - Sea Jam Jazz Quintet

21st October - Michael Brierley
Accompanied by Brian Sawyer

Free entry with a retiring collection in aid of church improvement projects

The Parish Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman, Steyning

Contents

Cover picture: Crab apples in the Vicarage garden, mid-September

Magazine Donations

If you enjoy this Church Magazine and would like to make a donation towards the costs, we would be very grateful.
BACS transfers with reference 'Magazine Donation' can be made to: Sort Code 30-99-93, Account 03220862. If you are a UK tax payer and fill in the Gift Aid slip, we can recover an extra 25p for every £1. Alternatively, scan the QR code to donate. Thank you.

I wish to Gift Aid my donation to 'Steyning Parochial Church Council' to help meet the expenses of the Church Magazine. We suggest an annual donation of at least £12

Title ..... Surname ..... Forenames .....

House No/name ..... Postcode ..... Date .....

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less income Tax and /or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Please notify Steyning Parish Church if you / cancel this declaration / change your name or home address / no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Registered Charity No: 1132913

Prayer Diary for October

5 October,
Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them.

12 October,
Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity
Almighty God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you: pour your love into our hearts and draw us to yourself, and so bring us at last to your heavenly city where we shall see you face to face.

18 October, Luke the Evangelist
Almighty God, you called Luke the physician, whose praise is in the gospel, to be an evangelist and physician of the soul: by the grace of the Spirit and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel, give your Church the same love and power to heal.

19 October,
Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity
Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us your gift of faith that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to that which is before, we may run the way of your commandments and win the crown of everlasting joy.

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

28 October, Simon and Jude, Apostles
Almighty God, who built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Jesus Christ himself as the chief cornerstone: so join us together in unity of spirit by their doctrine, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services:
will be at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's, Steyning on **5 October**, 9:30am and 4pm; and at St James's, Ashurst on **12 October**, 10:30am.

Collect for Harvest
Eternal God, you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory, for the relief of those in need and for our own well-being.

Photo by Federico Faccipieri on Unsplash

Pastoral Letter

I wonder how many people who read this magazine will have made their will. Those who have had to manage the practical consequences of the death of someone close to them will know how helpful it is if that person has (to use an old-fashioned phrase) 'put their affairs in order'.

It's also a great help to the next-of-kin if their friend or relative has put together some thoughts about their funeral. Whether they are happy to be cremated, whether they would like particular hymns, readings or prayers included. Their choice of music will indicate whether they want a more traditional or a less conventional celebration. They may have made a more specific suggestion about the kind of occasion it will be – a request to wear bright colours perhaps.

Preparing for death is also an opportunity to discuss these things with your loved ones. It's always best if the contents of a will (including for example whether something or everything is going to Battersea Dogs home) does not come as a shock to your children, or closest relative.

It's also wise for everyone (not just older people) to have thought taking out a lasting power of attorney to make clear whom you would like to make decisions on your behalf should that become necessary. There are other issues to think about too, such as a 'letter of wishes' (about matters outside the scope of a will), and preferences for medical treatment at the end of life.

With all this in mind, as you see from page 20 of this magazine (and in posters displayed around the town), we have organised a drop-in session on Wednesday, 8 October to guide us through some of these questions and for free general advice from professionals who work locally. This will be a chance to demystify such questions, and to face them rather than be tempted to postpone them until another day. The Book of Common Prayer (from 1549 onwards) has advised us that men and women should always live 'in a readiness to die, whensoever it shall please Almighty God to call them'.

From the perspective of the Christian faith, that is not a morbid thought. Death is a beginning not an end, and there is no reason to shy away from these questions.

Fr Mark

FROM THE EDITOR

As I was searching through the CofE's Common Worship lectionary for the prayer diary on page 4, I noticed a name with a Steyning connection – Alfred the Great, King of the West Saxons (848-899). As his day (26 October) is considered a lesser festival, he doesn't warrant inclusion in the diary, but his collect reads: "*God, our maker and redeemer, we pray you of your great mercy and by the power of your holy cross to guide us by your will and to shield us from our foes: that, after the example of your servant Alfred, we may inwardly love you above all things.*"

Although Alfred's local connection is somewhat loose – his father, Aethelwulf, was buried here and later, presumably at Alfred's behest, his remains were moved to Winchester – it proves the importance of our town in Saxon times. Our present building, believed to date from c1100, and thus truly Norman, is later than 858 when Aethelwulf died, so he would have been buried in the earlier Saxon church.

But is our building as Norman as we believe? Recently our historian Sarah Leigh was showing another expert around, who identified one particular feature as being possibly Saxon in origin. Sarah is currently busy with other research but we await any more clues that at least one wall might remain from that original Saxon church. Which could give us the right to rival neighbouring Sompting as 'Saxon Cathedral of the Downs'.

Blessings, Bill

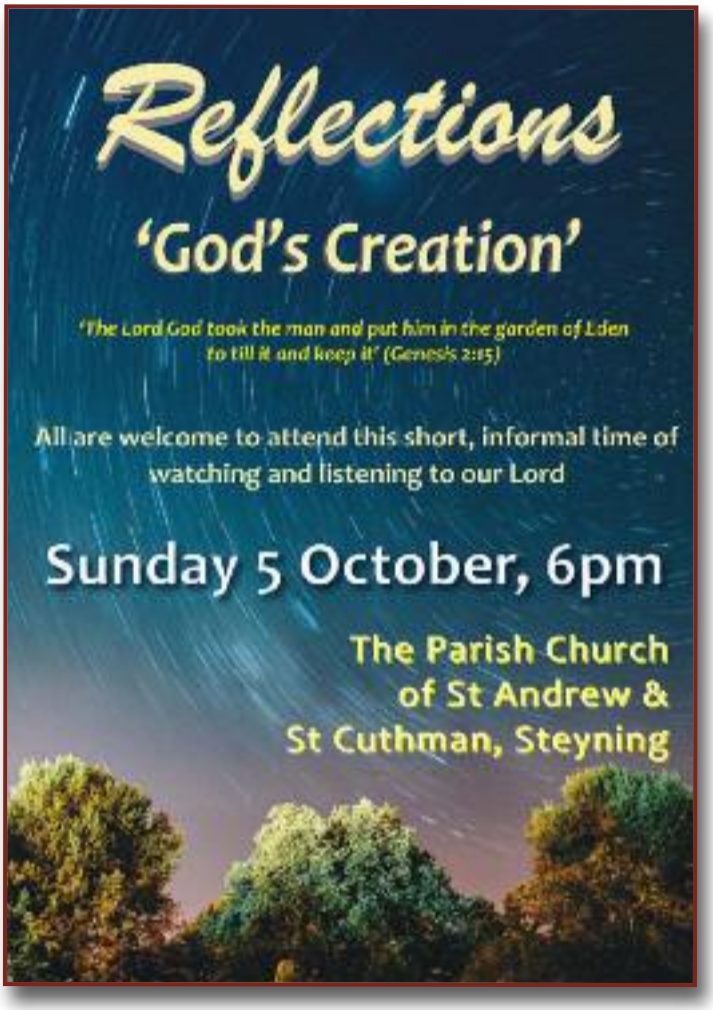
Sunday Notices

The weekly Sunday notice sheet, 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 this sheet please contact:

office@steyningparishchurch.org
or ring 01903 813276

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

Reflections Service



'Reflections' is a quiet contemplative time of about 40 minutes, with readings, prayer and music built around a 10-15 minute period of silence.

A Safer Church

Image: The Church of England

Fostering a culture of safety in our church

In the heart of every church lies a commitment to reflect Christ's love, compassion, and care for all people. At the very core of our mission at Steyning is the aspiration to make our church a truly safe place—a sanctuary where everyone is welcomed, valued, and protected. But what does it truly mean to be a "safe place," and how can we, together, nurture a culture that ensures the wellbeing of every individual who enters our doors?

When we talk about safety within the church, it's important to remember that this concept encompasses not only our physical environment but also emotional, spiritual, and psychological wellbeing. A safe church is one where all voices are heard without fear, where differences are respected, and where every person—regardless of age, background, or ability—can flourish. As a parish, we strive to ensure that the love of Christ is expressed through tangible actions and thoughtful policies that protect and empower everyone, from our youngest children to our oldest members.

Hospitality is at the centre of the gospel message. Jesus welcomed those whom society often rejected—the marginalised, the vulnerable, the misunderstood. Following His example, our church culture is grounded in generous hospitality, where everyone is received with warmth and respect, and where diversity is not just tolerated but celebrated. In practice, this means ensuring that we greet newcomers, giving appropriate help to those with disabilities or special needs, and fostering a culture that encourages belonging. We offer training to volunteers and paid workers on recognising and addressing unconscious bias, we do the best we can with our rather inadequate facilities and review our ministry opportunities to ensure accessibility for all.

One of the most crucial aspects of building a safe church is our commitment to safeguarding. This

means putting in place robust policies to protect children, young people, and vulnerable adults from harm or abuse. Our safeguarding policy is publicly displayed and we have a comprehensive folder of policies and procedures which is kept at the back of the church, near the War Memorial. These are regularly updated in line with diocesan and national guidelines. However, safeguarding policies are living and responsive, not just documents in a folder. They are the foundation upon which a culture of safety is built.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Whether you serve coffee after the service, volunteer with children, or simply attend worship, you play a part in creating a safe environment. Here are practical steps each of us can take:

- Be informed: familiarise yourself with the church's safeguarding policies and procedures. Take time to look at the folder at the back of the church.
- Be vigilant: notice and report any concerns—no matter how minor they may seem.
- Be approachable: create an atmosphere where children and adults alike feel able to talk about worries or difficult experiences.
- Set an example: treat everyone with respect, kindness, and patience.
- Participate in safeguarding training offered by the diocese. Fiona or I can give you further information.

If you ever have a concern, remember - it is not your job to decide if abuse has occurred, but it is your responsibility to report concerns to one of our safeguarding officers – Christine or Fiona. Early intervention can make all the difference.

Ultimately, making the church a safe place is a shared responsibility. It is built on trust, mutual respect, and the willingness of each person—clergy, staff, volunteers, and congregation members—to care for one another. By embracing this calling, we honour the gospel, strengthen our witness in the world, and create a parish where all can encounter the love and safety of Christ.

May we continue, together, to foster a culture of safety—so that our church is not only a place of worship but also a true sanctuary, in every sense of the word.

Christine Aubrey
Parish Safeguarding Officer

Saint of the Month

OCTOBER - JAMES THE DEACON (c600-c675)

The nationality of James is unknown but he was probably an Italian. He was part of a mission sent by Pope Gregory under the leadership of Augustine to bring Christianity to the English.

In 625 he went with Paulinus to Northumbria accompanying Ethelburg, sister of King Eadbald of Kent, who was to marry King Edwin of Northumbria. Edwin converted to Christianity and the mission thrived. However, in 633 Edwin died in battle fighting against Penda of Mercia and a pagan backlash set in.

Queen Ethelburg fled to Kent along with Paulinus. However, the deacon James remained behind in Northumbria and continued his missionary work, preaching the Gospel throughout the region. He faced hostility from Penda of Mercia and was often in danger of his own life.

After the death of Penda, Christian rule was re-established and there was still much evidence of the efforts of James and his companions during the bleak pagan years. With the return of others from Augustine's mission, James was able to resume his deacon role of teaching music – especially Gregorian plainchant to the churches of the region. In his *History of the English Church*, the Venerable Bede praised James for his honour and integrity. He says that James lived to a great age, attending the Synod of Whitby in 664.

James was revered for staying in Northumbria to preach the Gospel when Paulinus had departed with Queen Ethelburg's court to Kent. After his death, James was venerated as a saint and his Feast Day is kept on 11 October in the Anglican Church.

Wednesday Coffee: Penfold Hall

Do join us in the Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning, every Wednesday morning, any time between 10am and 12 noon. We meet in the main hall.

Several of our visitors go to church for the Wednesday morning 11:30am service, but you can stay on chatting, too.

Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team

COME IN … PLEASE, FOR A COFFEE OR TEA AND A CHAT.

10-12 noon

IN THE PENFOLD HALL

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS

God's Glory on our Doorsteps

At church one Wednesday Pat reminded me that she used to love my article entitled *Pictures from my buggy*, and she missed them. My hope is that she and a few others will enjoy my meander along Goring Road in my buggy, one Friday, 22 August.

How many times have I driven or walked along Goring Road, but I have not looked properly at the wonderful gardens that are there, laid out before me? Do this on your road.

Look up (and I must look up as I am low down in my buggy) and then wait a moment, look for longer – gaze and marvel at all you see. Gaze at the life and life cycles you are given freely, and maybe tended carefully by their owners. Look down and then gaze at the shapes and colours at your feet along your road. Gaze at nature, at God's creation.

Hebrews 11:3
By [having] faith, we understand that the universe was formed by God's word [See Gen. 1:1-27], so that what is seen has not been made out of what is visible.

Psalm 24:1 A Psalm of David.
The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains,
The world, and those who dwell in it.

Genesis 1:29
Then God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you."

Psalm 104:24
O Lord, how many are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
The earth is full of your possessions

Revelation 4:11
"Worthy are you, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honour and power; for you created all things, and because of your will they existed, and were created".

For God's joy to be shared there must be a seed sowed beside the footpaths, in the right earth, in the right season, by the people willing to sacrifice their time, talent and money – and then for God to send the rain. If all this is done then there is a certain hope and confidence that the seed will flourish and grow, and there will be a harvest for us to share.

Our churches are growing in numbers and in faith and the love of God because tiny seeds have been sown at just the right time, and there is tremendous power in a tiny seed to grow into a big tree or brilliant bush or dazzling flower. The harvest of the land

and sea are so important, but equally so is the harvest of souls. Keep planting seeds, and with the Holy Spirit, tend and water them.

Christian Aid Harvest Prayer

Living God, you call upon us to sow peace, grow faith, and tend to one another in love. Plant in us a commitment to pursue that call. Strengthen our hope as we seek together the coming of your kingdom on earth. Amen.

Chris Fitton

The Steyning Society

FRIDAY, 17 OCTOBER, 7:30,
at the STEYNING CENTRE

Dr GEOFFREY MEAD,
on 'BUNGALOW TOWN'

After the First World War, the acute housing shortage saw a range of informal settlements spring up on largely marginal land. Shoreham Beach was one such settlement. It was in the forefront of film making, and named the 'Hollywood of West Sussex ', where many film and music hall stars of the day built homes.

Being Alongside

Being Alongside is a Christian-based charity recognising the need for spiritual values and support in mental health.

It was founded in 1986 as 'The Association for Pastoral Care in Mental Health', through the pioneering effort of Christian parents whose son was mentally ill, wanting to raise awareness of the spiritual needs of people with mental health problems, both in mental health services and in churches.

The charity's aims are to promote the recognition of spiritual values in relation to mental health and wellbeing, and to provide suitable resources to enable faith communities to engage with and support those living with mental health distress.

The charity's vision is that faith communities should be places where people belong, where their mental health needs are recognised and met; places where mental health needs encourage people to come together, challenging, enlightening and enriching the community. They are places too where people recognise that action is needed to achieve this vision, so that people with mental health problems take their rightful place in inclusive communities where everyone learns from each other.

The charity's aims are to enhance the quality of life, self-respect and spiritual growth of those affected by mental or emotional difficulties, by encouraging church and other faith communities to be alongside individuals who are so affected; also by encouraging the development and continuation of local initiatives to support people with severe or enduring mental health difficulties; and by encouraging those working in the provision of mental health services to recognise the importance of spiritual needs and resources.

Being Alongside has a network of supporters and affiliated groups, welcoming and encouraging people whatever their own faith or belief system. The charity achieves its aims nationally by publicising the value of 'being alongside' people affected by mental or emotional difficulties; by developing networks and resources; by working in partnership with other interested parties; by providing details of resource material; and by publishing both a magazine and a website (www.beingalongside.org uk).

Aims are achieved locally by encouraging local groups to develop initiatives to support those affected by mental or emotional distress; by publishing good practice guidelines; and by encouraging sustainable friendships.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me." (Matthew 25:40)

Being Alongside is a Registered Charity in England and Wales, No: 1081642. Patrons: The Right Revd Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani (Bishop of Chelmsford) and Dr Larry Culliford.

Larry Culliford

Steyning and District Churches Together

There will be an interesting talk on Saturday 1 November entitled *East Clayton Farm – A Transformational Journey,* presented by Noel Atkins of the Lorica Trust.

Please consider eating breakfast with other Christians of Steyning, Ashurst, Bramber and Beeding at The Hub. You will be served croissants and other delicious continental breakfast delicacies together with fresh coffee or tea.

The guest speaker at this SDCT breakfast event will be Robin Hobson. He will be talking about the amazing work that is happening at East Clayton Farm. If you have not noticed the signs, it is located on the right hand side of the A283 a couple of hundred metres west of the Washington roundabout.

Please come and join other Christians in our community at the SDCT Breakfast meeting on Saturday 1 November at The Hub, 19 Church Lane, Upper Beeding BN44 3HP.

Families and Children

Hello everyone, October time means Harvest time, and I am super excited that we have our family harvest festival service at 4pm on Sunday 5 October. Please do join us for this service as we will be introducing a new member of the clergy team to Steyning Parish Church and later on in October we will be hosting our Hallowe'en Pitstop after its success last year.

The Fire Pit Services are a different style from our normal worship. They are shorter services with time together at the end toasting marshmallows and getting to know each other. It has been nice that we have now built up a regular attendance to this service but we would always love to see more of you join us.

In September due to the rain and wind we met in the porch of the church and it brought such a lovely feel to the service – it was cosy and the singing echoed around the porch. Our next service is Sunday 12 October – do come and join us as we would love to see you.

OPEN TO ANYONE OF ANY AGE, the board game café runs on the second Tuesday of each month. It's very exciting. We have been seeing some new faces over the last couple of meetings of the café. Some of these are families. It is great to see this now starting to become more inter-generational, so why not come and try us out? There is a wide variety of games for all abilities and interests. The next session is 14 October, 3:15pm in the Penfold Hall.

Little Stars is growing; the end of September saw our biggest session to date. This is amazing and it has been great to see strong relationships building amongst everyone. The second session on a Monday has started off smaller, but there are some real bonds being made.

October sees Little Stars celebrating its first birthday. We are looking at bringing in more ways to build on our connections with people. We have also been introducing some new toys that focus more on sensory play.

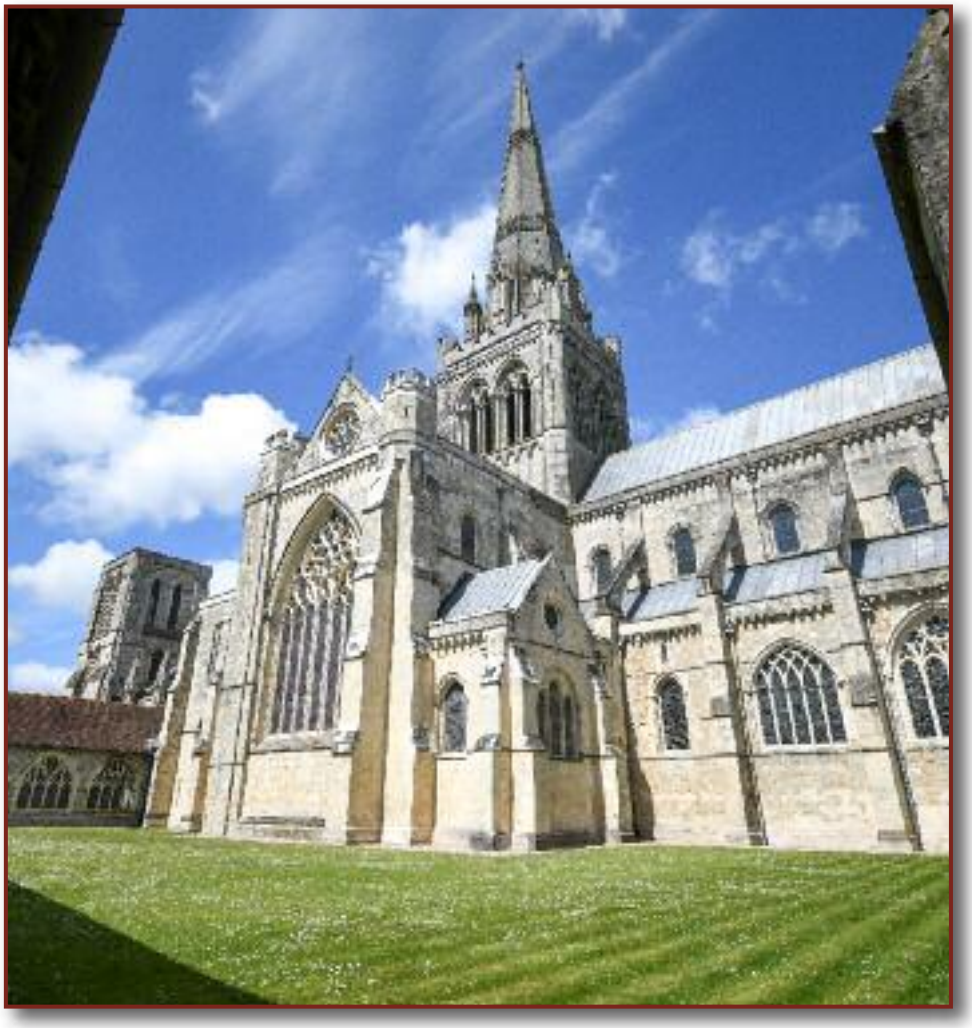
LITTLE STARS meets in the Penfold Hall, on Mondays 1pm–2.45pm and Thursdays 9.30am–11.30am

We had a great visit from year 5 of Steyning Primary School during September to look at our stained glass windows and learn about some of our historic items in church. It was fantastic to see so much joy in the church from the children. We have started back running collective worship with them.

We look forward to all the other exciting things that will happen within the school this term.

Blessings
Gary

Parish Pilgrimage to Chichester – 16 October



In this Year of Faith, the 950th anniversary of the foundation of our Cathedral at Chichester, we will be making a parish pilgrimage on Thursday, 16 October.

After making our way to Chichester we will begin the day with a Eucharist celebrated by Fr Mark at midday. There will be an opportunity to see the Religion, Rebellion & Reformation exhibit before it closes, and to take part in an optional guided tour including hidden parts of our medieval cathedral.

At 4pm we plan to gather in 'Cloisters', the Cathedral Refectory. The day will end with Choral Evensong, which starts at 5:30pm. The cost of the optional guided tour is £8, and a cream tea (when pre-booked) is £7 (other afternoon menu options are available). We will be able to accommodate up to 40 people altogether, although numbers on the tour will be limited.

Chichester 950 exhibition (Chichester Cathedral)

You will need to bring something to eat for lunch or to buy something during the day.

Please contact the Parish Office to book your place, letting us know how many people will be coming with you and if you will be driving, would need or be able to offer someone a lift, or would prefer to travel by train (the Cathedral being a half-a-mile walk from Chichester rail station). Paper booking forms are also available from the back of church which can be returned to a churchwarden, or posted through the Parish Office letterbox.

Between Hiroshima and Remembrance Day

World War I was often referred to as "the war to end all wars". Remembrance Sunday was instituted after this appalling slaughter. It is right for us to remember the soldiers and civilians who are victims of war. Westminster Abbey has just such a memorial just before you go in through the main entrance. This memorial including civilian casualties, and the busts depicting modern Christian martyrs as Janani Luwum and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, are important additions to the more traditional war memorials of the Abbey.

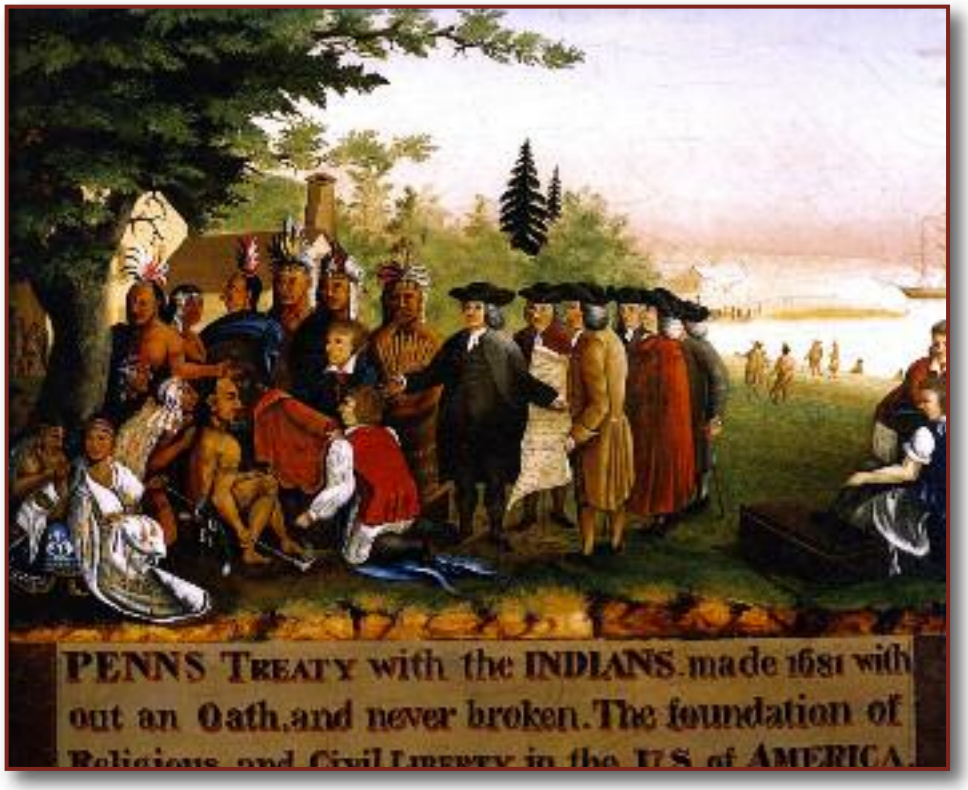
Just over 20 years later, the Second World War followed. It is salutary, after a good meal in the Selsey Arms in Coolham, to go to the nearby field and reflect that this was the site of a World War II airfield, from which British and Polish fighter pilots help to ensure victory against the Nazis. Standing in front of the nearby memorial plaque, one learns that more Polish pilots who flew from that short-lived base were killed than their RAF comrades in arms. It seems appropriate that I was working on this article on the anniversary of the beginning of World War II, 1 September 1939, and finalised it soon after.

'Bench of Contemplation' at Coolham Airfield (Horsham and Shipley Community Project)

On Hiroshima day, 6 August 2025, a small group of us met in Thakeham at the Penn Stone, where the 17th century religious leader, peace activist and political theorist William Penn is said to have preached. There is a famous picture from a series by Edward Hicks, painted in about 1834, depicting 'The Peaceable Kingdom' including William Penn trading with Native Americans, and the biblical theme of "the lion lying down with the lamb".

I'm sure that Penn would be horrified today that the USA, founded on a vision of peace and freedom from the religious intolerance of Europe, is today the most heavily armed and most powerful country in the world. It is an alarming sign of the times that President Trump has decided to rename the 'Department of Defense' as the 'Department of War'.

For the event in Thakeham, I asked my longstanding mentor and friend, Paul Oestreicher, to send a message of greeting. Paul spoke in our parish church some years ago, presenting one of the Cuthman lectures. At the age of seven in 1938, his parents were able to bring him to safety from Nazi Germany.



William Penn's treaty with the Native Americans, Edward Hicks c1854 (public domain)

They found refuge in New Zealand. His message to us recounted how he learned about the atom bomb:

"80 years ago, I was 13 years old, riding my bike to King's High School in Dunedin, New Zealand.

"I was worried. The morning news had told me that yesterday one bomb, an atom bomb, had destroyed the city of Hiroshima in Japan. Of course I could not understand how that was possible. Maybe our physics master would explain it. It was the second lesson on that day. Mr Roberts tried to help us to understand nuclear fusion - or was it fission? We didn't really understand, and I still don't. Just as he was leaving the classroom, our teacher turned back and said: 'Boys, either we now abolish war, or war will abolish us.'

"Mr Roberts was wise. I took that lesson to heart. The wider world did not. That explains why today, aged 93, I am still a vice-president of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. I can invite you here and now to join that people's movement....

"The world has not learned Mr Roberts' lesson. The threat of nuclear extinction is with us every day in a world that is very far from abolishing war. Just pick up today's newspaper. Hundreds of thousands of women, men and many children suffer the dire consequences of the wars raging as I speak to you today. Just think of Sudan, Gaza, Ukraine and many more."

Nuclear weapons were used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since then, the killing has been done, with damaging effect by conventional weapons. Machetes and AK47s have proved remarkably destructive in recent wars. The last century was the most bloody in history. This century has not made a promising start.

Unlike Paul, I am not a pacifist. However, I am absolutely clear that the just war tradition rules out almost all wars. Even wars waged without nuclear weapons are so devastating that it is hard to distinguish between combatants and civilians. The famous American monk, Thomas Merton, reaches this conclusion in a number of his essays in 'On Peace', particularly "Target equals City". Even what began as a just war against Nazi totalitarianism in 1939, can end with the

use of nuclear weapons, which cannot be justified.

This year, we have marked the end of the Second World War 80 years ago. Those who experienced it are departing, one by one. So are survivors of the Shoah or Holocaust. It seems, too, that we are forgetting or unlearning the lessons which we should have finally learnt. In 1945, the United Nations was founded "to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind", as the UN Charter states. The language may be outmoded, but the principles are clear. Recently, it has been suggested that the international human rights provisions, including the Refugee Convention of 1951, are also outmoded and need updating. Yes, the patterns of refugee movements are different now, but most of those making these arguments want to weaken, rather than strengthen, protection of basic rights. What is required is implementation, not undermining, of such standards which British lawyers and politicians did so much to negotiate and formulate.

People are still uprooted by conflict (Photo by Levi Meir Clancy on Unsplash)

There is also an important pragmatic political argument that, in the current international climate, it would be impossible to get agreement on preserving and improving such valuable safeguards for civilization. Never since its inception has the rules based-international order been so jeopardised.

As Paul Oestreicher says in his greeting:

"Life and liberty, our basic rights as human beings, are constantly trampled under the feet of the powerful. At the cost of more than 40 million lives, Hitler was defeated in the last World war, only now to find new Hitlers, new Stalins, new tyrants being worshipped by hate-filled deluded ordinary people like us. Floods of refugees, the world's uprooted, clamour to share our wealth. Do we embrace or fear them?

"I was once a German-Jewish refugee child. My family was offered the asylum denied to many, many others. The others with nowhere to flee were murdered because no-one wanted Jews as neighbours. But now the children of the Jewish survivors who rule the state of Israel treat their Palestinian neighbours as Germans had treated them. The abused becoming abusers is one part of our human tragedy. God help us if we just watch in silence."

Paul's message, however, does not end in pessimism. He concludes: "Against the odds, do not be afraid to buck the trend. Go on loving, for love casts out fear."

Roger Williamson
1-4 September 2025

PROPER PREPARATION FOR DEATH DROP IN EVENT

Wednesday 8th October

10am - 12 noon
Penfold Hall

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A COFFEE AND AN OPPORTUNITY TO ASK PRACTICAL QUESTIONS TO US AND OUR LOCAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS, SOLICITORS AND A MEDICAL CENTRE REPRESENTATIVE

LET'S TAKE THE MYSTERY OUT OF PREPARING FOR DEATH

Steyning Parish Church
Steyning_Parish_Church
steyningparishchurch.org

Proper Preparation for Death

All are invited to a drop-in event (see poster image opposite) when you can come with your questions about how we can all be properly prepared for our death. We will have three professions represented: solicitors, funeral directors, a surgery representative, and of course Fr Mark. No question is too difficult – let's take the mystery out of being prepared for death.

This event will take place at the Penfold Hall (small hall) from 10am to midday on Wednesday 8 October. Refreshments will be available as Wednesday Coffee takes place in the large hall. We look forward to seeing you. Questions can be directed to care@steyningparishchurch.org

The Arts Society Steyning

OCTOBER TALK

Monday 13 October,
10:00am - 12:00
The Steyning Centre,
Fletchers Croft,
Steyning BN44 3XZ


Image credit Tk420

From Coalbrookdale to Crystal Palace: Art, Design and the Industrial Revolution,
A lecture by Jo Walton

This talk introduces us to inventors, industrialists and designers, whose products married design and modernity, becoming famous across Europe. In paintings from the 18th and 19th centuries, we see how new techniques influenced design and we consider how mass production and the changing landscape affected life for all. We also look at Crystal Palace and the Great Exhibition, including its enduring legacy for art, design and architecture.

Jo has combined teaching and lecturing with a career in art bookselling and has been a volunteer guide at both Tate Britain and Tate Modern. Now a freelance lecturer for The Arts Society, The National Gallery, The Art Fund, and local art societies.

Free to members, £10 donation for visitors

steyning@theartssociety.org - www.theartssocietysteyning.org.uk

***AT HARVEST TIME** we pray for the hungry of the world, for those who cannot grow enough to live on, for those whose crops have been devastated through floods and wars, for those who depend on food banks, and struggle to make ends meet to feed their families and themselves. Teach us to reject selfishness and live as your son, Jesus Christ, did in generous giving to all*

Steyning Art Group

ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2025

At The Steyning Centre

Saturday 1 November

9:30am - 4:30pm

Sunday 2 November 10am - 3pm

We shall be displaying inspiring, original artwork in oils, acrylics, pastel, watercolours, mixed media and pencil.

Greeting cards will also be on sale. Do come and join us, meet the artists and learn more about our group.

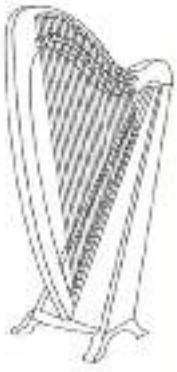
Delicious homemade cakes.
Free entry.

Steyning History Society

The next meeting of the Steyning History Society is on Wednesday 8 October 2025. This is a talk on Cissbury Ring by James Sainsbury. As usual, our meetings are held at the Steyning Centre, on the second Wednesday of each month from September through to May.

You are welcome to arrive from 7:30pm.

Our presentations commence at 7:45pm and run through until 9pm. Annual subscriptions: £15 per person. Visitors are welcome: £5 per person.



WELCOME JOY!

Music for high voices and harp
by Gustav Holst
(Rig Veda, Eastern Pictures)
and Imogen Holst

Cantilena

Director: Jenny Hansell

Harp: Heather Wrighton

The concert is one hour long with no interval

Saturday
4th October
2025

Parish Church of
St Andrew and
St Cuthman
Steyning
BN44 3YQ

5 pm

Tickets £15
(£5 schoolchildren)
from
cantilena.info@gmail.com
or at the door

Petworth Area Churches Together

Autumn Lecture

at 7.30pm on Friday 3rd October
at St. Peter Ad Vincula Church
Wisborough Green

James Courtis-Pond

Founder and CEO
of Anydata Solutions
will speak on...

'Beyond a Reasonable Doubt'

James was an atheist whose life revolved around competitiveness. His life changed when he met Jesus! As a lawyer, he scrutinised the Bible as though it was a legal document and concluded it's true.

Free Entry. Wine and Canapés.
Parking in the Village Hall car park, School Road, Wisborough Green, West Sussex, RH14 0DX.
www.petworthareachurchestogether.com

Recipe for October

GLUTEN FREE VICTORIA SPONGE

Ingredients

- 225g/8oz caster sugar
- 4 free-range eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 225g/8oz butter, cubed and well-softened, plus extra for greasing
- 250g/9oz gluten-free white self-raising flour
- 1 tsp gluten-free baking powder
- 125g/4½oz jam (raspberry, strawberry and blackcurrant all work well)
- 1 tbsp icing sugar, sifted

Method

Preheat the oven to 190C/170C Fan/ Gas 5. Butter two 20cm/8in loose-based sandwich tins and line the bases with circles of baking paper.

Beat the sugar, eggs and vanilla until very pale, smooth and thick. It's best to do this with electric beaters or a food mixer for around 5 minutes: the whisk should leave a thin trail of batter when lifted from the bowl.

Add the butter, flour and baking powder and beat together for 1–2 minutes more until smooth.

Divide the mixture evenly between the prepared tins and smooth the surface. Bake on the same shelf in the centre of the oven for 20–22 minutes, or until well risen, golden-brown and just beginning to shrink back from the sides of the tin.

Remove the tins from the oven and leave to cool for 15 minutes before turning out on to a wire rack. Peel off the baking paper and leave to cool completely.

Place one of the sponges on a plate or cake stand. Stir the jam to loosen and spoon onto the cake. Spread almost all the way to the edges. Sandwich the cakes together and dust with sifted icing sugar.

Parish Registers

Wedding

Charles Baldwin and Elizabeth Joyner (20 September)

Funerals

Stephen Dennis Nightingale, at St Botolph's (1 September, d. 27 July)

John Cay (4 September, d. 13 August)

Interment of Ashes

John Alfred Tully (26 August, d. 8 April)

A Red Kite Tale

Red Kite silhouette © Simon Verrall

On holiday in the late 90s, my family and I made a visit to a working Mid-Wales farm. As we watched from purpose-built hides, a group of magnificent wild birds of prey started to gather in the surrounding trees, eventually descending to pick up scraps of meat from the ground; a flurry of auburn feathers and forked tails.

I remember being stunned by the sheer number; I was used to spotting a lone kestrel or buzzard but had never seen so many birds of prey at once.

The farm is famed for their supplementary red kite feeding, held there daily since advised by the RSPB in 1992 to support efforts to encourage the preservation of the species. The UK red kite population had been decimated due to long-term persecution, driven by an incorrect belief that they threatened game birds. Red kites will hunt small mammals, such as rabbits, but are mostly scavengers, preferring to take carrion rather than live prey. By the late 1980s numbers were drastically low, and with only a handful of breeding pairs in Wales, the species was nearly extinct in the UK.

But change was in the air. Following a release of several birds in the Chilterns in 1990, efforts by many conservation organisations and committed individuals to support and resettle the species have made the red kite reintroduction one of the most successful and renowned conservation stories in the UK. The species now soars in many areas of the British Isles, which is home to an estimated 4,500 breeding pairs. Whereas during my Welsh farm visit we

Red Kite and chicks © Derek Middleton

perhaps saw 80 birds, they now welcome up to 500.

We know that memorable interactions for children and young people with our natural world can create lasting connections; vital to the continued conservation of our precious wildlife and habitats. Even though they are now abundant in places, I am still overjoyed to see a red kite, perched in a bare branch or hovering over a motorway. When I do, I am often put in mind of that experience at the farm 25 years ago. I had no idea I was witnessing part of such an incredible story.

Kerry Williams, Communications Officer – Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Red Kite © Dave Kilbey

Pastoral Care Team

Would you, or anyone you know, like a member of our team to:

- Offer a listening ear, or chat if you are lonely
- Give a phone call to help ease a heavy burden
- Be there just to listen to your concerns or worries?

Please don't hesitate to be in touch and feel free to email: care@steyningparishchurch.org or call 01903 813276.

Someone from the team is ready to be there at your side either by phone or in person.

Our next grief café is in the Penfold Hall on Friday 10 October from 2pm until 4pm. Please feel free to join us if you are in need of support following a loss of any kind. Tea and coffee and biscuits are served in safe surroundings.

Judie Thomson, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator

FLOWER ROTA FOR OCTOBER

5 and 12 Oct
Sheila Tredgett / Sandra
19 and 26 Oct
Sue Clarke & Jayne
Volunteers needed for harvest decoration please at 10am on 4 October.

STEYNING PARISH CHURCH - Services for October

Every Sunday

08:00am	1662 Holy Communion Service
09:30am	Sung Eucharist each Sunday with full choir, except on Sunday 19 October, a simpler communion service, for all ages Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 5 October (and at 4pm)
18:00pm	Evening service: First Sunday (5 October): Reflections, a quiet, peaceful evening service, entitled 'God's Creation' Second Sunday (12 October): said BCP / 1662 Evening Prayer service Second Sunday (weather permitting) outdoor firepit service Third Sunday (19 October) Choral Evensong, BCP / 1662, with full choir and organ Fourth Sunday (26 October) Taizé service

Every Wednesday

11:30am	Said Holy Communion (Common Worship) (Fourth Wednesday; with prayers for healing)

ST JAMES'S, ASHURST - Services for October

Sundays

1100am	First Sunday (5 October) Zoom Matins
10:30am	Second Sunday (12 October) Family Harvest Thanksgiving Fourth Sunday (27 October) Holy Communion

VICAR OF STEYNING ST ANDREW'S & ST CUTHMAN'S AND RECTOR OF ST JAMES' ASHURST

The Revd Mark Heather LLB BA , Tel: 01903 879877

Parish Office Address: Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning, BN44 3YB

01903 813276; office@steyningparishchurch.org; www.steyningparishchurch.org

Parish Administrator: to be appointed

Parish Office open: Tuesday to Friday 10am to midday