



Church Magazine

for Steyning and Ashurst

Lent and Love

March 2026

ISSUED FREE

Registered Charity No 1132913

CANDLELIT TAIZÉ

On 4th Sunday of the month
at 6pm. (lasting about 40 minutes)

Meditative chants, prayers and
silence fostering a spirit of
peace, reconciliation and faith.

Next Taizé – 22nd March
St Andrew & St Cuthman
Parish Church, Steyning

GOOD FRIDAY SACRED CONCERT

The choir is now starting to prepare for the Good Friday Sacred Concert which is on 3 April at 7:30pm. They will be joined by members of the Chanctonbury Chorus and other guest singers in a performance of Gabriel Fauré's beautiful *Requiem*, together with supporting pieces of music appropriate for Good Friday. As always, entry to the concert is free and there will be a retiring collection. See the April magazine for more information. This event is always well supported by the congregation and I'm sure it will be again this year.



Brian Sawyer

Kaleidoscope Singers
Conductor Zoe Piate

Brighton Chamber Choir
Conductor Ruth Kerr

Choral CONCERT

Macmillan, Eschwald, Whitacre, Pauls,
Randall-Thompson, Hogan, Shaw

Saturday 7 March, 6.00

St Andrew & St Cuthman Church,
Steyning BN44 3JQ



TICKETS £15 under 18yrs £5
steyning bookshop
www.ksticket.co.uk

A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE
WHO SUPPORTED THE FSW COFFEE
MORNING ON SATURDAY
31 JANUARY AND TO ALL THOSE
WHO BAKED DELICIOUS CAKES.
WE RAISED OVER £1,000
WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC.
THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR
GENEROSITY, IT IS AMAZING!

The FSW Team would like to ask for
Easter Egg donations for our food
basket to be in by Friday 13 March to
allow time
for them to
be sent out
to our
families for
Easter Day.



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Cover Picture:

*St James's Church, Ashurst
(Bill Thomson)*

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 you donate. Thank you.



I wish to Gift Aid my donation to 'Steyping 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 Steyping 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.

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Prayer Diary for March

Sunday 1 March, Second Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness: grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same.

Sunday 8 March Third Sunday of Lent

Almighty God, whose most dear son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain, and entered not into glory before he was crucified: mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace.

Sunday 15 March, Fourth Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday)

Merciful Lord, absolve your people from their offences, that through your bountiful goodness we may all be delivered from the chains of those sins which by our frailty we have committed; grant this, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thursday 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 commands.



Sunday 22 March, Fifth Sunday of Lent (Passiontide begins)

Most merciful God, who by the death and resurrection of your son Jesus Christ delivered and saved the world: grant that by faith in him who suffered on the cross we may triumph in the power of his victory.

Wednesday 25 March, The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary

We beseech you, O Lord, pour your grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross and passion we may be brought to the glory of his resurrection.

Sunday 29 March, Palm Sunday (Holy Week begins)

Almighty and everlasting God, who in your 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.

Prayer for Lent

And now we give you thanks because Jesus Christ our Lord was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again. During these 40 days, let us reflect on the life and sacrifices of your Son, Jesus Christ, and may we grow in love and service, reaching out to those in need with compassion and mercy,

Pastoral Letter

Immediately after his baptism in the Jordan, Jesus was 'led' or 'driven' by the Holy Spirit into the Wilderness (Matt 4:1 and Luke 4:1; compare Mark 1:12-13). At the very start of his mission and ministry, Jesus had a lot of time to consider the implications of everything that God was asking of him.

We might assume that Jesus found it easy to pray. Instead, he was 'tempted'. This would have been no surprise to his contemporaries. The wilderness was considered to be the abode of demons and dangerous spirits. Still, he went there.

One writer has compared his temptations to the 'whispering voices' that can speak to any of us – whispers that seek to distract us from the loving purposes of God. Instead of prompting Jesus with the clear voice of God, the Holy Spirit was supporting Jesus in confronting these inner voices, one-by-one. For each of us and at different times these whispers will be different, whether they might be promptings to self-doubt, tendencies toward procrastination, or the lure to make the nonsensical assumption that life revolves around us ('because I'm worth it').

It would be so much easier if these inner voices ceased to plague us, if they would go away, or if we could find something else to fill-up our minds and distract us.

But that is not the way. The experience of Jesus spending 40 days in the wilderness shows us that we need to make time to stand up to the demons – to face them. As if we were setting out to prune a beautiful rose bush, and looking to the Loving Spirit of God to guide our hands, as we take up the shears.

*Come down, O Love divine, seek thou this soul of mine,
and visit it with thine own ardour glowing;
O Comforter, draw near, within my heart appear,
and kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

Bianco da Siena, d. 1434

fr Mark



Church Flowers

There are no flowers in church during Lent (except Mothering Sunday, 15 March, when there will be floral gifts to celebrate all mothers)

FROM THE EDITOR

Recently, I was drawn to something on social media that said: ‘The Bible is inspired’ followed by ‘Which we take to mean that it continues to inspire faith, argument, scholarship, prayer, disagreement, and the occasional raised eyebrow.’

OK, it was a tongue-in-cheek line from a fictional parish (inspired by a real one just over the border in Hampshire) but I saw so much truth in that. It got me thinking that there are so many ways of looking at the Bible. Some people treat Scripture as the definitive, unchanging, word of God – and there’s nothing wrong with that of course. For others like me, it’s more a guide book than an instruction manual.

Life, and the world, both constantly evolve, and changes to laws and practices reflect that. I think we have to remember that the words were not written directly by God or Jesus (however heretical that may seem to some). If we want a more complete truth we have to go back to the original text from 2000 or more years ago. Things have changed even since the first printed translation (started in 1522, the same date as our Tudor panels).

I think we should concentrate on the spirit of what Christ taught, as found in the Gospels. Gospel means ‘Good News’ and we know from our newspapers today how the same subject can acquire vastly different headlines. Jesus preached love, first of God and then of everybody else. We just need to follow that example.

Blessings, Bill

Sunday Notices

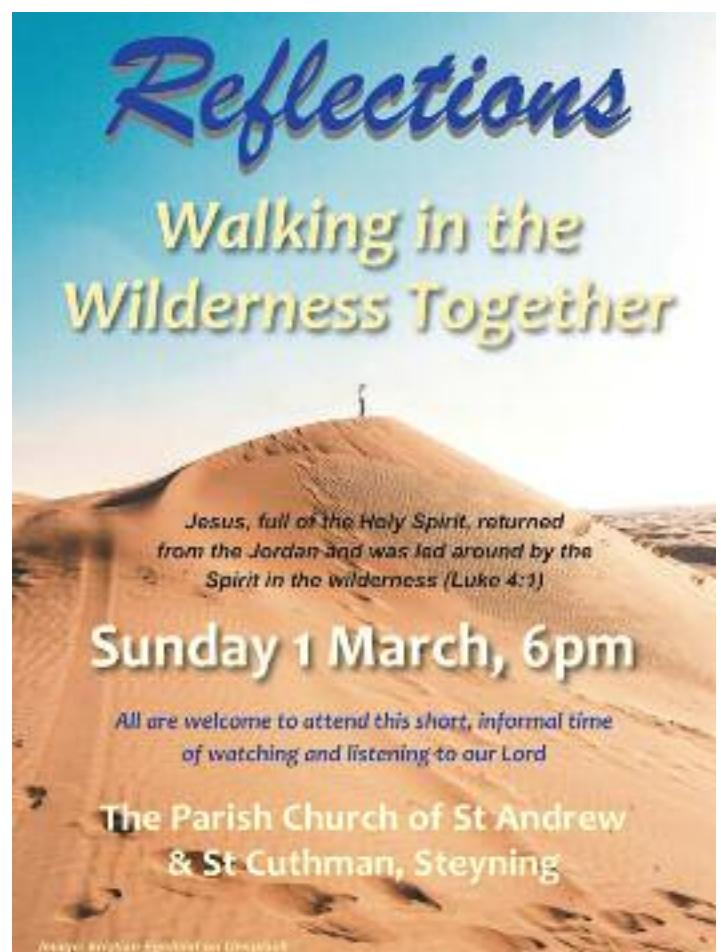
The weekly Sunday notice sheet, sent from the Parish Office, gives all the information about services, news and events. There is also the list of those needing our prayers. If you would like to receive this sheet please contact:

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.

Mary and Joseph



This year Mothering Sunday falls on 15 March and just four days after, the Church celebrates the life of St Joseph, the husband of Mary and legal father of Jesus, on 19 March.

These two events being so close together has prompted me to think about these two wonderful people and their parenting of Jesus and his brothers. We read more about Mary than Joseph in the Bible, and it is believed that, as Joseph was an older man when he was engaged to Mary, that he died before Jesus began his public ministry after his baptism in the River Jordan.

We do know, that as new parents, Joseph had to bundle his wife and baby together and go quickly from Bethlehem. What a traumatic beginning to family life, but they made it back to

Nazareth together, and I can only think they learnt a great deal about trusting each other, working together and praising God for safe deliverance. They were religious parents and they observed the Jewish rites and laws, and so we have the beautiful story of Mary and Joseph going with their 40 day old (not even two months) baby Jesus all the way to Jerusalem for the rite of purification dictated by the Law of Moses. They were not a rich family and so came with their offering of two doves as a sacrifice. Both parents felt completely at home in the Temple, and there they had the joy of meeting older people. Generations today should mix together more so we can learn from each other, just as Simeon and Anna did as they encountered the Holy family. Simeon felt the Holy Spirit nudge him

towards this poor family, and the older, prayerful man took the baby Jesus in his arms and prayed:

“Lord now let your servant depart in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation”

This was Simeon’s prophesy said over Jesus and his mother and father.

The second older person they met was Anna, aged 84, and as a widow, she lived within the temple courts, and she too recognised Jesus as God’s redeeming power here on earth. She rejoiced with the family. Both these older people had their own stories about long faithfulness to their Jewish faith, and in the same way, we can see what a huge blessing older people can bring to us all today. How can we, in today’s turbulent, busy world, enable family generations to come together more, or church family generations interact more through study, prayer, chatting and playing? Perhaps then we all would see that grey hair is absolutely their crown of glory, faithfulness and love. Anna and Simeon show me – one who now has the speed of a tortoise, and the grey hair of an older person – how I should try to finish my life: strong and faithful, loving, kind, hopeful and prayerful, and always recognising the importance of family time.

Celebrating the Passover must have been very important to Mary and Joseph because we are told they travelled all the way to Jerusalem every year, allowing this family to grow together, doing all ‘the stuff’, all the ordinary things, of Judaism together. So, those of us who may be parents or grandparents, aunts or uncles,

godparents or siblings, if we can do the ordinary things that make up our faith today, then God will do the extraordinary. All that is required of parenting is that both parents do the best they can.

We then almost lose sight of Mary and Joseph’s life as a family in the Bible, or what happened to the young Jesus, except we are told that Jesus grew, yes, in height and weight and strength, but also in wanting to learn, in wisdom, and we are given this one more boyhood Passover story.

This particular year was no different, the holy family and their relations and neighbours all travelled many days as a caravan to Jerusalem for the Passover celebration. Once all the religious observances were over this large group travelled a whole day back towards Nazareth before Jesus could not be found among his cousins and friends, which was where Mary and Joseph had thought they had seen him. They called around for him, but he was nowhere to be found, so they all had to head back to Jerusalem to look for him. (It strikes me that getting lost was a very unusual occurrence for Jesus and that normally he was a very reliable boy, because no one was worried about him for that whole day.) Panic was setting in as Mary and Joseph started looking in all the wrong places – where would a twelve-year-old boy be? They must have retraced their steps through all the narrow, cobbled streets of Jerusalem, and not just for the first day, but for three days their precious son was missing. Then they go to the temple, and there he was with the rabbis,

listening to them, asking questions and giving answers too. He was amazing those gathered around, and they were listening to him. Here, in Jerusalem temple, were the best teachers Jesus could find and he was completely absorbed and oblivious to anything else. Poor parents, they scolded him, but Jesus could not see the problem saying simply, “Where else would I be, but in my Father’s house?”

These simple words are Jesus’ first recorded words in the Bible showing his deep understanding that he was indeed God’s son, and prioritising his heavenly father over his earthly parents. (God was not referred to as Father in Judaism.) Mary and Joseph must have

had to dig very deep inside themselves to come to the realisation that Jesus was growing up very fast. There are times today when I think all parents have to dig deep inside to understand their children, and to know when to let them grow up.

Jesus needed to grow in many ways, just as all children, and we are told very little more, except he grew in stature and in favour with God and man. May we all, during this Lenten time continue to grow in God’s grace, and in our relationships with others close to, and around us.

“From God’s fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” John 1:16
Chris Fitton

Terry and Ruth Clarke

We recently reluctantly said Goodbye to Terry and Ruth, who have moved to a home near Bedford, nearer to family, as a result of Ruth’s increasing needs and Terry’s declining health. Terry has a long history with St Andrew’s & St Cuthman’s, having held various positions including Churchwarden and was one of the first members of the Grove House Group. Terry continued to attend the house group until the move, but Ruth was limited through her care needs.

They attended Wednesday Eucharist when they could, and their 70th wedding anniversary was celebrated during one of these services. The pictures show Terry’s final Grove House Group meeting, and Terry and Ruth at their home in Mill Road, receiving communion from Judie. They will be keeping in touch with their Steyning friends, and we hope to be able to visit them soon. Many thanks to them for being such loyal supporters of our churches.



Saint of the Month for March

JOHN DONNE, PRIEST & POET (1572-1631)

John Donne was the son of Roman Catholic parents living in London at a time when practicing that religion was illegal. His mother was widowed when he was four but she then married a wealthy widower and John was educated privately. He was admitted to the University of Cambridge at the age of 14 and studied there for three years. He refused to take the Oath of Supremacy and was not permitted to graduate.

In 1592 he was admitted to Lincoln's Inn. About this time he began to question his Roman Catholic faith. He spent much of his wealth travelling and fought alongside the Earl of Essex and Walter Raleigh against the Spanish at Cadiz.

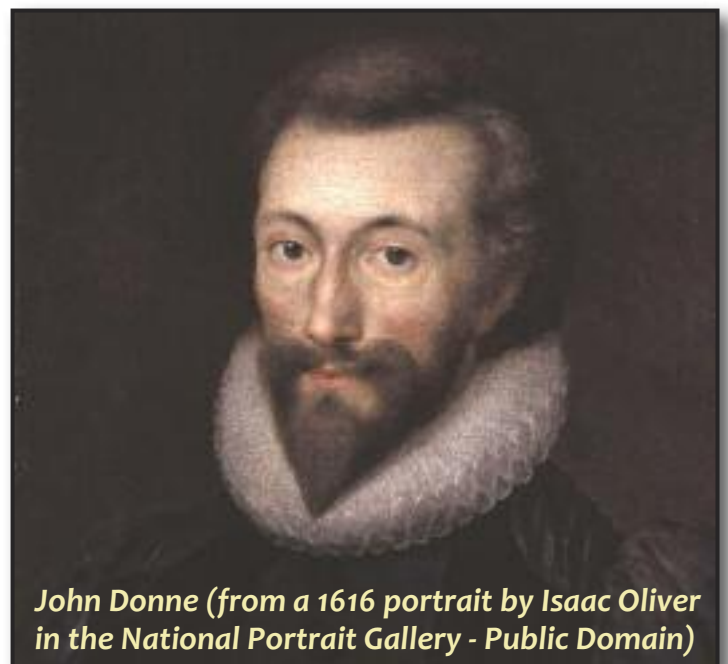
Having mastered Italian and Spanish he sought a diplomatic career but this was dashed when he fell in love with Anne More, the 16-year-old niece of Sir Thomas Egerton. They married secretly against the wishes of her father and Sir Thomas, and Donne was put in the Fleet Prison along with the priest who had married them. However Donne was released when the marriage was found to be valid.

From a life of debauchery his marriage turned him into a loving husband and a man of faith. He scraped a living as a lawyer and they lived in relative poverty. In 1610 Donne wrote a book encouraging Roman Catholics to take the Oath of Allegiance to the King. This brought Donne to the notice of James I who suggested that he consider taking

holy orders. Soon after his ordination in the Church of England in 1615 he was appointed as a Royal Chaplain.

In 1617 his wife died giving birth to their twelfth child and Donne turned fully to his vocation as a priest. From 1621 until his death he was Dean of St Paul's and, with a reputation as a preacher, large crowds went to the Cathedral to hear him. Throughout this time Donne wrote both secular and sacred poetry but most was unpublished until after his death. He was largely forgotten as a poet until the 1920s when Ezra Pound and T S Eliot acknowledged their indebtedness to his genius as one of the greatest poets of the seventeenth century.

Donne died on 31 March 1631 which date is kept as his commemoration in the Calendar of the Church of England. He was buried in Old St Paul's Cathedral and his memorial was one of the few to survive the Fire of London in 1666. It was re-erected in Wren's new St Paul's.



John Donne (from a 1616 portrait by Isaac Oliver in the National Portrait Gallery - Public Domain)

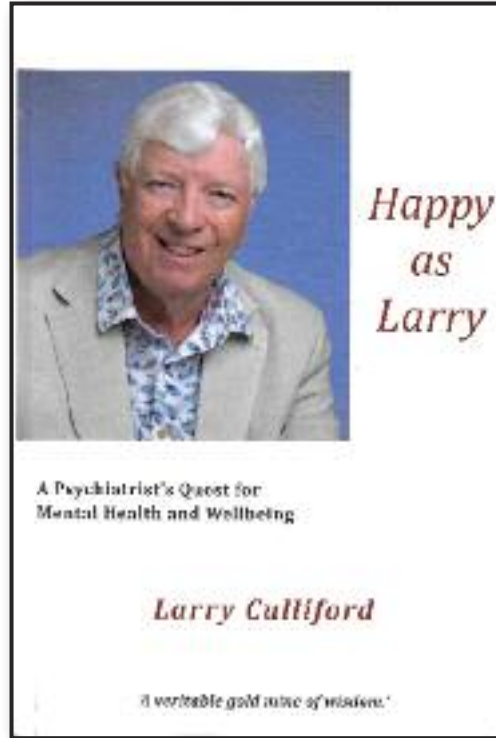
Happy as Larry

It's something we hear frequently – we don't really know people in our church community until we learn their life story at a funeral, when it's too late. We'll have no such problem with our good friend Larry Culliford. He has published what amounts to his life story, in *Happy as Larry*.

First, is Larry happy? If happiness means being content with how your life has turned out, despite many obstacles along the way, then the answer, according to the book, is a definite yes. Larry's book, subtitled *A Psychiatrist's Quest for Mental Health and Wellbeing*, could be described as autobiographical, but is more than just an autobiography. It starts with his rather dysfunctional upbringing, apparently devoid of normal family connections. Despite this, Larry had a good education and gained a place at Cambridge to study medicine. He qualified as a doctor at Guy's Hospital but could not decide on any of the normal career paths so decided to use his medical qualification as a passport to allow him to practice overseas.

Larry's first job was in a small hospital in New Zealand's North Island, but problems there forced him to look elsewhere and Larry felt drawn to move south to Christchurch, where he began to take an interest in, and become

involved in, psychiatry. Larry's book contains many anecdotes and case studies from his life down under, in both New Zealand and Australia, where he transferred on expiry of his NZ visa.



Larry spent some time as a locum in Australia, where he first nurtured his aim to become a writer. Although this first book was never published, several later volumes were to see the light of day.

In South Australia, Larry got his first post specialising in mental health and psychiatry. This was the field in which he chose to stay on his return to England, with

various posts in Surrey and Sussex before settling in Steyning.

Quite a lot of the book is taken up with discussions about relationships; personal as well as professional. These give an insight into his search for emotional healing. Spirituality is another recurring theme; Larry first found Christianity at school, but drifted away in mid-life, as so many of us do, only to return. Larry developed a profound interest in other faiths, Buddhism in particular, whose meditative practices have proved a great comfort.

Happy as Larry by Larry Culliford is published by New Generation Publishing, and is available from Steyning Bookshop or Amazon at £16.95, Kindle edition £4.99.

Just a Thought... Then and Now



Gaza
(Mohammed Ibrahim
on Unsplash)

I wonder how often we stop, think, and are aware of what an amazing community we live in here in Steyning. We have now been living here for over 16 years - still 'newbies' to those whose families have been here for generations, but we feel part of a friendly and welcoming place. Steyning has a solid foundation of centuries of history, and you feel secure in that. Our church, after all, was founded in Norman times.

Now compare the difference —

When Ray was a curate and early in our marriage, he was sent to a brand-new housing estate being built on the outskirts of Plymouth. One of a number of estates built after World War 2 to house the hundreds of families who had suffered the devastation of the blitz and had lost everything. Before that time families had had no need to move, to relocate — there was plenty of work in

the dockyard. Generations had all lived close by, often in poverty but surrounded by their extended families with support when needed: help with new babies and care for the elderly. Few at that time were in care homes.

Then came the blitz. Large areas of the town and housing were flattened. In a flash, support systems were no more. Before long, housing estates sprang up around the outskirts of Plymouth and families were scattered. In 1960 'our' estate was still in the process of construction. The house we were sent to had just finished being built and was close to the new church and hall. The area was soulless. A sense of isolation and loneliness was everywhere. Five miles from the town doesn't seem far now but it was like another world to those families who previously had had all their needs met

within walking distance. Few had cars and it was a lengthy walk to the bus stop on the main road. Amenities were minimal. The housing was undoubtedly bleak – each with a mud patch for a garden surrounded with wire fencing and two concrete posts ready for a washing line. But the stage was set, over time a community formed and thrived.

Why am I writing about these things? Well, I have been thinking how most things are relative. The reconstruction of blitzed Britain post war was undoubtedly a tough time. But nothing can be compared to the wanton destruction happening at this very moment in so many areas of the world today. The suffering is beyond imagining. No hope of re-building and re-housing. Gaza, Ukraine, Iran, Syria, the list goes on. Thousands of ordinary families leading ordinary lives left shattered. No shelter, little food or

water, and freezing temperatures. They have nothing.

From the comfort of our lives here we feel helpless. On one level we are. But there are two things we can and must do. Earnestly pray, daily. The need is vast and overwhelming. Our Father knows and understands but we are told to ‘make our requests known to him’. Equally to give thanks for all the blessings our Lord bestows on us. Yes, everything is relative but the contrast between us here in this country and those suffering the endless results of conflict cannot begin to be compared.

We are indeed blessed in abundance and our Lord’s abiding love is with us and surrounds us. Thanks be to God for all his good gifts and for the beauty of his creation.

We now think and pray for those left with nothing. Simple people, just like us.

Maureen Jones

Challenges We Meet as We Get Older

Retirement for most of us is something we look forward to; especially at the early part, enjoying the new experience of freedom to do all those things that you have not managed to achieve because of work and personal commitments.

As the years slip by, quality of life begins to change. What used to come naturally is not so easy to do now. Health issues are usually the first thing you notice; past aches and pains are beginning to become more problematic. Visits to the doctor become more frequent. Funerals have taken over from weddings. Technology is more difficult to handle, inflation bites into the

pension and in general, negative issues take over from the positive ones.

Prayer in our younger days was usually centred around the family and work, now in later life, prayer is asking the Lord for guidance dealing with illness and bereavement of a partner or sibling; sometimes the dramatic loss of a child. Faith helps us to deal with life especially with the world’s order becoming unstable, where sadly love has been overtaken by hate.

Jim Lang.

Note: writing this piece was very much out of character for me, something just drove me to put pen to paper (no AI input).

Families and Children

Hello Everyone, isn't it exciting to see new people joining our congregation from the outreach work we do in our community. Each of us plays a part in this, from setting up and taking down, to making cakes for events, serving tea at one of our many activities or giving your time to chat with people. We all have a part to play in spreading the love of God to our community.

Each of the activities that happens in our church and hall to support our community and church family takes lots of time and preparation. If you feel you could give time to any of our groups or events then please do speak to someone – or if you have any ideas on how we could support our community

to share the love of God, then again please speak to someone. I am not

writing this

just from my view of children's and families' work but for the whole church community. The way to grow and spread the love and faith of Jesus is to be a presence in our community, building personal relationships with people and inviting them to explore with us.



The **Pancake Event** went well again this year especially with it being half term. We do hope that if you joined us you enjoyed your freshly made pancake with your chosen toppings. Thank you to all those who helped make the event happen.

A date for your diary is our **Messy Church Activity Walk** run in partnership with the Steyning Downlands Scheme, Tuesday 7 April 10:30am. To book tickets please go to the families and children's page on our website.

The **Board Game Café Evening Edition** is held once a month on the fourth Monday from 6pm to 9pm. It will be great to see this group grow and we look forward to our next one on 23 March.

The **Afternoon Board Game Café** is run in partnership with the Community Wardens, and is open to anyone, of any



age. The board game café runs once a month on the second Tuesday, from 3:15pm to 5:15pm. The next session is 10 March.

The **Fire Pit Services** are a different style from our normal services; they are a short service with time together at the end toasting marshmallows and getting to know each other. Our next service is Sunday 15 March. Do come and join us as we would love to see you.



the team on a Thursday. Can you help out? Just once in every six weeks. This could be making drinks in the kitchen, or out in the hall chatting with adults or playing with the children. It is up to you how you get involved. This is a massive outreach for the church and it is such a lovely group of adults and children.

Little Stars meets Mondays 1pm to 2:45pm and Thursdays 9:30am to 11:30am.

Blessings
Gary



We also have a playlist on Spotify that John has created of the songs we have sung and as we learn more they will be added to the playlist too, if you would like the link to the Spotify playlist then please do get in contact with me.

The twice-weekly **Little Stars** baby and toddler group is going well. We are still looking for two more people to join



Malcolm Duke Memorial

The Duke family name is well known in this area. Malcolm John Ayshford Duke, who died in October 2025 at the age of 73, was the grandson of Frank Duke, whose company built much of today's Steyning and was a churchwarden at Steyning for many years. Prior to that the Dukes were farmers in Steyning and Ashurst and had several other local businesses.

Malcolm, whose memorial service was held at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's on 26 January, was in so many ways ahead of his time. Amanda, whom he first met in 1991, thought him unconventional but in the best possible way. One of her surprises was the way Malcolm could talk about anything, even his feelings, which was most unusual for a man of his generation. They bonded over a mutual love of travel and married in 1992.

Malcolm refused to follow a defined career path, as was expected in those times, and took a variety of jobs. When Tom, their first child, arrived in 1995, he became primary carer for Tom and his sister Katie, while Amanda continued with her teaching job.

Malcolm's range of interests was, to say the least, broad. It was amateur dramatics that brought Amanda and Malcolm together, and that interest occupied much of Malcolm's life. Remembering lines was not his strong point, but he always managed to ad-lib

his way out of the situation, often with hilarious results. That creative instinct led him to write several plays, some of which were performed.

Music was another passion, from a rock band formed with local friends at the Chequer to eclectic sessions at home, as well as accompanying son Tom when studying the saxophone and supporting Katie's dancing.

Martial arts too occupied Malcolm's spare moments, training in Jiu-Jitsu from which Malcolm gained self-confidence, spirituality and resilience. He progressed to training

in Shiatsu, using pressure points, and which he described as "acupuncture without needles".

The love of travel continued including a Landrover safari, train and coach odysseys, camper van trips around the UK, and family cruises. Later, Malcolm bought a share in a canal boat, which took the Dukes and friends around Britain's waterways.

Frugality and repurposing were always important to Malcolm, so it was no surprise that he volunteered for Greening Steyning.

In his 50s, with no pension from his unconventional lifestyle, Malcolm became a buy-to-let landlord, with eight houses, always treating his tenants well and helping them out in many ways.

Malcolm was truly a man of many talents and interests, a life well lived.



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.
10am to 11:30am IN THE PENFOLD HALL
WEDNESDAY MORNINGS**

Steyning Parish Church in Clay

A few years ago, Carole Ashby, one of the artists who regularly exhibits in the Art Trail, decided to make a clay model of our church. She photographed the building, and enjoyed the challenge of replicating the detail and seeing how the building had evolved. The finished model was displayed during the Art Trail one year in the cottage where she was exhibiting her artwork. She has since kindly offered to donate the model to the church.

The model started in paper

form, which provided templates for the stone slabs, starting with the tower walls and then the nave. The details were added to the slabs, while the chancel and east window were constructed separately and added later as the whole model was too large for the kiln.



Parish Registers

Funeral: *Christine Phoebe Daws (d 29/1/26) 16 February*

Interment of Ashes: *Shirley Anne Fisher (d 27/8/25)*

10 January



Ann Ball Remembered

Teacher, mother, youth worker, magistrate – Ann Peggy Ball, who died on 21 December, was all of these, and more.

Ann was born Ann Peggy Beard in 1951 in Hitchin, Hertfordshire. She was an only child, and from an early age showed the curiosity and independence that would define her life. One example was her early love of nature.

Joining the Girl Guides laid a foundation for her life, becoming a volunteer leader and part of the Trefoil Guild.

She studied rural science, qualifying as a teacher at what is now Bath Spa University, and took up her first teaching post at Barton Middle School in Bedford in 1972, before joining Steyning Grammar School in 1974. After she was married in 1977, she moved to Kuwait, teaching biology. Her students there included the current Queen of Jordan and a member of the Kuwaiti Royal Family.

When their first child, Ann, was expected, they returned to England in 1991, settling first in Storrington, then moving to Upper Beeding. Two years later when Graham was born, followed by Louise. Ann realised that while she loved teaching, her true gift was in supporting young people. She began running the Steyning Youth Wing at the Cuthman Centre. There, according to daughter Ann, she impacted lives far and wide. She was extremely loyal and



protective of the young people she worked with, a tireless advocate for those who were struggling in school, and someone who would never allow a young person to be written off before they had a chance to thrive.

When she was appointed as Horsham District Team Leader, Ann was responsible for overseeing the youth service across the county. She was not only able to reach more young people, but also a mentor and champion youth workers and volunteers, helping many of them grow into their roles with confidence. She helped establish new initiatives, and would always find a way to ensure young people could access the services they so importantly deserved. She believed wholeheartedly that every young person deserved to feel valued, heard and safe. She served as a magistrate, a role that reflected her sense of fairness, compassion, justice and belief in understanding the person behind the situation.

Other interests included nature and wildlife, gardening, pets, travel and music. She became a grandmother, four times over.

In 2024 she suffered a stroke which led to a diagnosis of vascular dementia. Daughter Ann wrote: “Her influence lives on in the countless lives she touched, in this church and far beyond it. We are forever proud that she was our mum.”

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 13 March 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



Second Friday of each month, 2pm-4pm
In the Penfold Hall, Church Street, Steyning

GOOD GRIEF

Café

- Are you feeling alone?
- Have you been affected by any kind of loss?
- Would you like to be with people who understand and can help?

If so, we offer a safe space where you can talk, or just listen

- Never mind how recent or how long ago - we can all be affected by loss
- Everybody welcome, regardless of faith, any or none

Tea, Coffee and Biscuits provided
Donations welcome

The Parish Church of St Andrew & St Cuthman, Steyning

Contact us at care@steyningparishchurch.org Or phone 01903 813276



Melody for the Mind at Steyning Library

On the first Wednesday of the month at Steyning Library, you will find us singing, laughing, chatting and sharing a drink and a biscuit together. This is what our friendly *Melody for The Mind* singing sessions look like. Our one-hour drop-in session from 10:30 is an Informal, relaxed, dementia-friendly singing group open to everyone.



Singing is known to help the memory and increase wellbeing, so why not give it a go? The next sessions will be on Wednesday 4 March, Wednesday 1 April and Wednesday 6 May, all at 10.30. You can also sing along to our online *Melody for the Mind* sessions available on our West Sussex Libraries YouTube Channel under Playlists - *Melody For The Mind* Please do contact us for more information

email: Steyning.library@westsussex.gov.uk; Tel: 01903 270330

My Cloud of Witnesses

DEFENDERS OF "LIFE IN ALL ITS FULNESS" (JOHN 10:10)

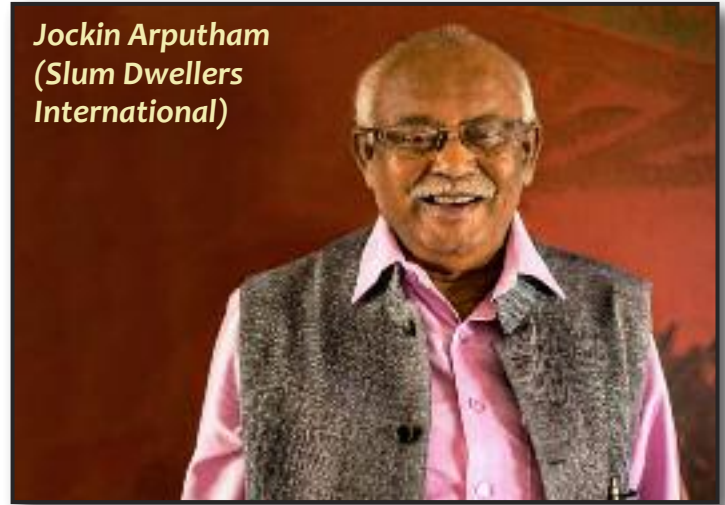
Part 4: Christians do not have a monopoly on work for peace and justice

Most of this series of short articles has been about inspiring Christians. But people of other faiths, as well as committed and impressive secular thinkers and activists must also feature.

I recall the late Jockin Arputham (India) and Rose Molokoane (South Africa) who specialised in organising those who have next to nothing in their respective countries, in the national organisations of Slum Dwellers and Shackdwellers International (SDI). In the short filmed profile of Jockin (see resources at end), he illustrates how he and other colleagues have mobilised those who live in slums to work together irrespective of religious background.

Getting somewhere safe and dry to sleep, access to sanitation and the possibility of earning a living are quite enough obstacles... these are their main priorities. To argue with their fellow slum dwellers about religion would divide the community and weaken their efforts to get better housing together.

The organisation which Rose led (before liberation from apartheid and before she was appointed as an advisor to the South African Minister of Housing) had a wonderful name. It



Jockin Arputham
(Slum Dwellers
International)

was called "FEDUP" - the Federation of the Urban Poor. FEDUP was down to earth and practical. It expressed frustration at lack of housing provision and made it clear that houses cannot be built on empty promises. Both Rose and Jockin visited Wiston House for a conference on 'Affordable Housing' and there shared that experience of campaigning with and for the homeless.

Thai Buddhist intellectual Sulak Sivaraksa is a great pioneer and innovator within Buddhism. From within this faith practice and philosophical tradition he developed a sophisticated

critique of capitalism and western consumerism.

Together with such figures as the Dalai Lama (Tibet) and the late Thich Nhat Hanh (Vietnam), he was one of the inspirations for, and founders of, the International



Rose Molokoane (Slum Dwellers International)

Network of Engaged Buddhists (INEB). Having studied in Wales, he later worked on Thai Programmes for the BBC World Service. He then returned home and worked as an engaged intellectual to build up civil society and to criticise society and the economy from a Buddhist perspective.

He has been a leading figure in the pro-democracy movement in Thailand. He was charged with defamation of the monarchy (*lèse majesté*) at least four times (in 1984, 1991, 2009, and 2014) – a very serious charge. The pattern seems to be that the courtiers and staff close to the King are ‘more royalist than the King’ and that Sulak has often offended powerful people, with criticisms on such issues as corruption and misuse of their office. Each time, however, he has eventually overcome the ordeal. On one occasion, he lost his entire book shop, with the stock of tens of thousands of books being confiscated. For his courage, leadership and scholarship he has been awarded international prizes such as the Right Livelihood Award in 1995, the Indian Millennium Gandhi Award in 2001 and he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994.



Sulak Sivaraksa
([Wikimedia Commons](#))

If much of the danger and suffering in our world is caused by unjust structures, then political, and not just personal action to resolve these issues is required. In this regard, I want to highlight some inspiring women who have led their countries and played an important international role in seeking peace and justice.

Of the list, I have met two – Angela Merkel and Graça Machel. Angela Merkel is remarkable for having led the reunited Germany for so long as Chancellor, allowing into Germany a million refugees (mainly from Syria) and being outspoken about the dangers of the far right. Her recent memoir *Freedom* tells the story.

Graça Machel from Mozambique is remarkable in her own right, but is also unique for having been First Lady in two African countries – as the wife first of Samora Machel in Mozambique and later of Nelson Mandela in South Africa.

Among other things, she was a pioneering Minister of Education in Mozambique, championing improvements in literacy and school enrolment. She was the leading expert for the UN report on the impact of war on children and has served on other important UN bodies.



Graça Machel
([Wikimedia Commons](#))

The others I wish to profile are Mary Robinson, Gro Harlem Brundtland, Helen Clark and Jacinda Ardern. Mary Robinson was the first female President of Ireland, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. She is now focusing much of her attention to climate justice on the international level.

Gro Harlem Brundtland was Prime Minister of Norway three times. Outside Norway, she is best known for the Brundtland Commission (*Our Common Future*, 1987), which did so much to raise the profile of sustainable development.



Helen Clark and Jacinda Ardern were both prime ministers of New Zealand. Clark also served as administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Ardern is known for her empathetic leadership style and for her reconciling action after a major terrorist act when a mosque was attacked and a large number of Muslims were killed and injured.

Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan retrospectively won the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize (presented in 1977). Corrigan was the aunt of the three



Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan (Nobel Prize)

children who were killed after a man evading arrest was shot dead and the car which he was driving ploughed into passers-by, injuring a mother and killing her three children. Williams and Corrigan established a peace movement from the grassroots up, which transcended the Catholic-Protestant divisions. People with no power or status can emerge as leaders for peace.

This parade of inspiring figures, from many nations and of quite different personalities, is a personal mosaic of those who have challenged injustice and whom I have found inspiring. Few of us can emulate them, but there is much we can do to defend human life through our option for peace over violence, defending the poor in situations of injustice and by defending the basis for human life against environmental destruction. Our parish church has taken some steps along this road through such initiatives as support for the Ukrainians living in Steyning and collections to help in emergencies through our 'red bucket' appeals.

Roger Williamson

FURTHER RESOURCES:

Jockin Arputham: <https://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/2015/01/30/january-30-2015-helping-indias-slum-dwellers-find-dignity/25090/>

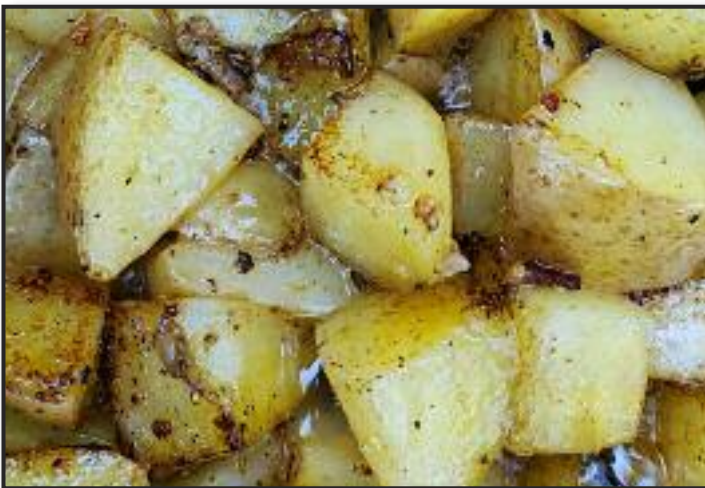
Recipe for March

LEMON ROASTED POTATOES

- 1.3-1.5kg floury potatoes such as Maris Piper, peeled
- 50ml olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, very finely chopped
- Grated zest and juice of 1½ lemons
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 2 fresh thyme sprigs, leaves picked

You'll also need...

Large oven dish with high sides, about 35cm x 20cm



Method

Begin by thinly slicing the potatoes about 0.25cm thick. Put the slices in a large bowl of cold water as you go. Plunge into boiling water for 5 minutes then leave to air dry on a cooling rack until you can touch them. Heat the oven to 200°C/180°C fan/gas 6. Stack the potato slices upright in lines that run the length of the oven dish. Pack them tightly together so they support each other to form long rows. Mix the olive oil, garlic, lemon zest and juice with the dried thyme and oregano. Drizzle over the potatoes, then sprinkle with sea salt and the fresh thyme leaves. Bake for 60-70 minutes until crisp and golden (cover with foil if they start going too brown). Test that the centres of the potato slices are soft and cooked through with a skewer before removing from the oven.

Becky

STEYNING HISTORY SOCIETY

The next meeting is on Wednesday 11 March. This is a talk entitled *Cleopatra and the Serpent of the Old Nile* by Helen Poole. 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 at the hall from 7:30pm. Our presentations commence 7:45pm. and run through until 9pm. Annual subscriptions: £15 per person. Visitors are welcome: £5 per person.

NEWS FROM CHICHESTER DIOCESE

- On 5 February, Bishop Martin announced that he will retire from office at the end of May 2026. Bishop Ruth and Bishop Will are to be acting bishops until a successor is appointed.
- The national church has confirmed that they will invest up to £11 million in the Chichester Diocesan Growth Strategy. There will be various grants available, including some for children and families, but the main funding emphasis is likely to be on helping the poorer parishes along the coast.

A Badger's Brave New World



Badgers © Darin Smith



The badger is a UK icon. Our largest predator, this monochrome mustelid is a star of the classics; *Wind in the Willows*, Beatrix Potter, and a certain well-known charity's logo. Often misunderstood, they are also loved by many, and some would argue there's not much better than a badger, except perhaps, a badger cub.

Deep in the sett, the badger burrow, cosy chambers are lined with vegetation collected by the females. Cubs are born around February, but tiny stripey noses don't peek out for 12 weeks, when they emerge in spring. It's a big new world to explore, and stranger than it once was.

Their ancestors would have trundled about acres of ancient woodland; towering veterans and thick, sheltered understorey. Ventures into wildlife-rich farmland would have been common-

place for plentiful omnivorous feasts of insects, fruits, and juicy worms slurped from thick, fertile soil. Without trying, children may have spotted these Badgers for real, on summer evenings humming with biodiversity.

For these new cubs, it's a different story, where invertebrates are often scarce, soil hard, and movement restricted. Seasons have shifted,



Badger © Hugh Clark FRPS

weather is more erratic, and precious habitats rarer. It's a story where thousands of their kin come to undignified ends on our busy roads, pesticides kill off much of the food, and the future of the family sett is unsure.

But the former isn't a fable, it's a reminder.

It is possible that these cubs, tumbling unexpectedly out of woodland boundaries, might not be met with hot, confusing concrete, but buzzing wildflower road verges; a heads up for the danger ahead. They might cross these risky highways via green wildlife bridges. They could travel with confidence through well-connected gardens and urban green spaces, staying safe along dense hedgerows and taking respite in deliberately dark nocturnal pockets.

They might once again take advantage of a bulging buffet, in our unmown and pesticide-free parks and lawns, in deep field-side buffer strips and in reinvigorated sickly-sweet native Bluebell woodland. We could better appreciate and understand badger



Badger in the Bluebells © C Tomlinson

behaviour and needs, engage and connect communities, and inspire a younger generation. Their habitats could be fiercely protected, and their setts saved.

It sounds idyllic, but it doesn't have to be fiction – it's achievable and in reach. We can reset our expectations, recreate those lost habitats, and rewrite the story for our badgers.

*Kerry Williams: Communications Officer,
Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust*

The Steyning Society

Friday 20 March at the Steyning Centre

Jeremy Tomlinson

The Curate's Vision

The Founding of Lancing College and the Woodard Schools

Jeremy is uniquely qualified to talk on the origins of the famous school, having taught drama there for 35 years, overseen the conservation of the chapel and published books on the subject.

Talks begin at 7:30pm with liquid refreshments served from 7pm. All talks are free to members. Guests are welcome (£5 each).



STEYNING PARISH CHURCH - Services for March

Every Sunday

- 8am 1662 Holy Communion Service
- 9:30am Sung Eucharist each Sunday with full choir, except on Sunday 15 March (Mothering Sunday) with the Music Group: a simpler communion service, for all ages.
- 6pm Evening service:
First Sunday (1 March): Reflections, a quiet, peaceful evening service, entitled 'Walking in the Wilderness Together'
Second Sunday Firepit Service (outside, weather permitting)
Second (and Fifth, 1 and 29 March) Sunday: said BCP / 1662 Evening Prayer service
Third Sunday (15 March) Choral Evensong, BCP / 1662, with full choir and organ
Fourth Sunday (22 March) Taizé service

Every Wednesday

- 11:30am Said Holy Communion (Common Worship)
(Last Wednesday, 25 March; with prayers for healing)

ST JAMES'S, ASHURST - Services for March

Sundays

- 11 am First Sunday (1 March) Zoom Matins
- 10:30am Second Sunday (8 March) Family Service celebrating (and anticipating) Mothering Sunday
Fourth Sunday (22 March) Holy Communion

Details of Services for the whole of Holy Week will be included in our April magazine or may be found on our website at www.steyningparishchurch.org/Easter

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

Office Manager: Nina Humphreys

Parish Office open: Monday to Thursday 10am to midday