

Church Magazine ***for Steyning and Ashurst***



- ***Christians in the Holy Land***
- ***Confirmation***

June 2026

ISSUED FREE

Registered Charity No 1132913

Chanctonbury Chorus

Together We Sing!

Music by Portman, Bruckner, Lauridsen,
Fauré, Thompson and more

Saturday 6th June 2026
at 7.30 pm

St Andrew and St Cuthman
Steyning

Tickets £15 from Chorus members,
Steyning Bookshop,
Eventbrite or phone 07421 556937
www.chanctonburychorus.org
[facebook.com/chanctonburychorus](https://www.facebook.com/chanctonburychorus)

STEYNING PARISH CHURCH

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

TUESDAYS

12.30pm – 1pm

16th June - Kadenza
23rd June - Brian Sawyer - Organ Recital
30th June - Steyning Primary School
7th July - Steyning Strummers and Singers
14th July - Michael Brierley - Tenor
21st July - Cantatrice
28th July - Sing Out Sister
4th August - Tredici Wind Ensemble

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

Steyning Parish Church
Steyning_Parish_Church
steyningparishchurch.org



— A Diocese of Chichester FSW fund raising event —

F Family
S Support
W Work

Riverboat Shuffle JAZZ

Vespers, traditional jazz and spirituals to get you tapping your feet.

4th July


St. Andrew & St. Cuthman
Steyning Parish Church

6pm – 8pm

Tickets available from Steyning bookshop £15 (Cash)

Including Welcome drink on arrival

FSW Fund Raising Raffle on the night (Cash)



National Emergency Briefing

People's Emergency Briefing


Steyning

A compelling public information film spelling out the scale and imminence of the climate & nature crisis

Free screening and discussion organised by Greening Steyning, Bramber & Beeding in collaboration with the Joint Parish Climate Action Group

The Steyning Centre
Wed 24th June 2026 7.30pm

www.nebriefing.org



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Cover Picture: Bishop Ruth with the Storrington Deanery confirmation candidates

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.

Registered Charity No: 1132913

Prayer Diary for June

7 June: First Sunday after Trinity

O God, the strength of all those who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in the keeping of your commandments we may please you both in will and deed.

11 June: Barnabas the Apostle

Bountiful God, giver of all gifts, who poured your Spirit upon your servant Barnabas and gave him grace to encourage others: help us, by his example, to be generous in our judgements and unselfish in our service.

14 June: Second Sunday after Trinity

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.

21 June: Third Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God.



24 June: The Birth of John the Baptist

Almighty God, by whose providence your servant John the Baptist was wonderfully born, and sent to prepare the way of your Son our Saviour by the preaching of repentance: lead us to repent according to his preaching and, after his example, constantly to speak the truth, boldly to rebuke vice, and patiently to suffer for the truth's sake.

28 June: Fourth Sunday after Trinity

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that with you as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not our hold on things eternal.

29 June: Peter and Paul, Apostles

Almighty God, whose blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you in their death as in their life: grant that your Church, inspired by their teaching and example, and made one by your Spirit, may ever stand firm upon the one foundation.

Prayer for the Season of Trinity

Let us learn more fully what we are called to, having responded to Jesus and been drawn by the Spirit to worship the God who is Father Son and Holy Spirit. In the love of Jesus we are called to see all people, and all that God has made, as God sees us. All matter, and all are precious in God's sight. Bring us all in love, to worship before your throne.

Pastoral Letter

I remember once hearing of the shock felt by an African visitor to Britain at the abundant use we make of water. As a boy, in a hotter climate, he had been taught by parents how to wash himself, entirely and from head to foot, with just a glass of water. He never got used to the idea of showers, or of immersing himself in water that wasn't a river. Pure water was such a scarce resource that he was never in danger of taking it for granted.



Whatever the impact of climate change, we in Britain may never need to treat water as the scarce commodity it has been in many parts of the world, but during the half-term break last month some residents of Kent and East Sussex had to put up with low water pressure. Because of over demand in the record-breaking temperatures some businesses had to close or cease production because no water was coming out of the tap. At the same time sales of energy-greedy air conditioners increased fivefold.

At our last Churches Together meeting we discussed a request from Greening Steyning to encourage local churches to promote an event taking place in the Steyning Centre on the evening of Wednesday, 24 June – one of many such events taking place across the country which will involve the screening of a film featuring Chris Packham and Jennifer Saunders and a number of scientists speaking frankly about the challenge of climate change, and what can be done about it. The film is called *The National Emergency Briefing* and has the support of such organisations as the Church of England, the National Trust, WWF and the Royal Meteorological Society.

The Churches Together meeting noted how the briefing was entirely scientific in content rather than political and is therefore uncontroversial. I plan to attend myself and (assuming you have read this far!) you may want to accept the invitation too. The event is free to attend but please book in advance if you can. You can do this through the Greening Steyning website or by using the QR code in the box on page 2 of this magazine, which links to further details.

Fr Mark

Thanks to all who supported the Churches Together Christian Aid Coffee Morning on 16 May. The total donations from cash and card on the day, plus donations for cakes after the 9:30 service at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's on 17 May, amounted to just over £1000. Thanks again

Elizabeth Brown

FROM THE EDITOR

We are now in what the Church refers to, rather prosaically, as 'Ordinary Time'.

Easter, Ascension and Pentecost (and the Festival) are all behind us and we have a period of quiet until we enter Advent. Quiet does not mean inactivity. Work continues to grow our churches, planning ways to get more people through the doors and encouraging them to return. Offering a variety of services is one way; and not just offering but making sure people know about them. Our series of lunchtime concerts is another. As is our involvement in ventures like the diocesan Family Camp.

Another thing that will be happening is the appointment of a new diocesan Bishop. Dr Martin Warner did a great job in turning round Chichester Diocese's safeguarding record. And while our new Bishop must maintain this, he or she will have other important priorities. We all have the opportunity, via the Chichester website, to say what we want our new bishop to do.

Growing the church is one major task ahead. We read of a 'quiet revival', then we learn that this may be a false alarm. The Evangelical churches are certainly growing, while some rural traditional parishes are declining. But planting new Evangelical churches is not the only way. More traditional parishes like ours can grow too. We find people coming to us who, thinking church is still the formal, dare I say dull, place of their early years, (but not being comfortable with the 'happy clappy' style) finding with us a lively, loving and welcoming place.

Blessings, Bill

Weekly Notices

The weekly notice sheet, sent from the Parish Office, gives 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 get it touch via::

office@steyningparishchurch.org
or ring 01903 813276

To add any new prayer requests please 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.

Deanery Confirmation Service

On Wednesday 22 April, St Andrew's & St Cuthman's was pleased to welcome the Bishop of Horsham, the Rt Revd Ruth Bushyager along with 13 candidates and their supporters from various Parishes in the Storrington Deanery for a service of baptism and confirmation.

Those being confirmed were Barbara Standley, Adrian Dighe and John Yeo from the Chanctonbury Churches; Jessilyn Akua Nuamah-Gyambrah, Jeremiel Kwame Nuamah-Gyambrah, Luna Summer Peat and James Lee Barrett, from St Mary's Pulborough;

Daniel Pressley, Isla Humphreys, Darren Humphreys and Nina Humphreys from St Andrew's & St Cuthman's, Steyning; Annabel Chaytor from Steyning Grammar School; and Duncan White from the 3Bs parish. Before the confirmation, Jessilyn, Darren and Nina were baptised by Bishop Ruth.

It was a joyous occasion, with a selection of hymns reflecting the different Anglican traditions of the candidates' churches, an inspiring sermon from Bishop Ruth and a Eucharist, followed by refreshments provided by our parish.



*Left: the confirmation candidates
Above: Bishop Ruth with Isla, Darren and Nina
(Diocese of Chichester)*



A Message of Thanks

A huge thank you from me to you all for my lovely gifts and good wishes when I stood down from my role as churchwarden at the Annual Parish Meeting. It has been a joy and a privilege to serve you and Fr Mark for the past six years.

I send my best wishes to Judie Thomson who will be joining Kate Burnett as churchwarden and look forward to supporting them as part of the wider church team.

Sarah Lavery

Authorised Lay Ministry

Saturday 9 May saw a record number of 112 Authorised Lay Ministers commissioned by Bishop Ruth at Chichester Cathedral.

Among those were two from our parish – Gary Pickett, in Youth & Children and Judie Thomson, in Pastoral Ministry. We congratulate them on completing the courses, and look forward to seeing how the new qualifications and authority enhance the work that both of them were doing previously.

The Chichester ALM programme offers flexible, skills-based formation for lay people who are called to serve in public ministry within their local church. ALMs play a vital role in supporting and enriching parish life, contributing to the Church's mission through a range of ministries.

The training covers various disciplines, known as 'electives'. The current year, which will run from September to April, offers 12 electives, of between four and 12 training sessions, which can be online or in person, at various venues throughout the diocese.

Additional electives are included for 2026/2027; the full list is: Catechists; Chaplaincy; Children's Ministry; Care for Creation & Eco Church; Leading Intercessions; Mission Enabler; Pastoral Ministry; Preaching; Rural Ministry; Traditional Music in Worship; Worship & Liturgy; and Youth & Children.

Our PCCs will be keen to encourage anyone interested in these various ministries to explore if training as an ALM might be the right thing for them. Anybody interested can find details of these, and other lay ministry training opportunities, on the Chichester Diocese website under 'The Lay Apostolate'. There is a fee of £50, free for retired or unwaged, though parishes are encouraged to cover these costs. To enrol you need the agreement of the incumbent and the PCC, and you will be required to undertake the necessary safeguarding training and DBS checks.

All ALM candidates with Bishop Ruth, and Judie and Gary with Fr Mark at the ALM commissioning service in Chichester Cathedral (top picture credit: Chichester Diocese)



SAMS



St Andrew's Men's Society

At the April meeting we enjoyed an illustrated talk by John Edwards on the various projects undertaken by him, particularly road building in Gloucester and Cambridge and church buildings in Sidmouth and Steyning. Many thanks to John. We next meet on Tuesday 30 June with a talk from Charles Harries on the Quakers, and look forward to meeting you then.

Further information from Len Warner.



Steyning Library: More Than Just Books

Borrowing books is not the only thing you can do with your library card. Your membership also gives you free access to audio books, digital books, major newspapers and hundreds of magazines online.

There are four apps which you can download to your smartphone, tablet or laptop depending on what you would like to do.

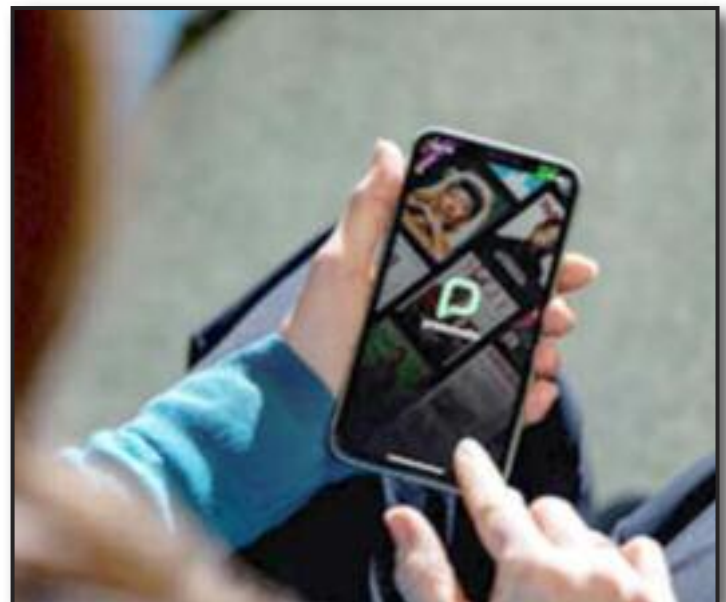
Borrow Box, *ULibrary* and *Libby* have a wide range of audio books for adults and children, which you can download and listen to in the car, kitchen, garden or in bed. *Libby* also has digital books you can download to read on your device, along with magazines. Finally, *Press reader* gives you free access to magazines and national newspapers in many different languages.

Message of Thanks

Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for £475 raised for Christians in the Holy Land, at a time when they are most vulnerable. Please continue to remember our work in your prayers, giving our brothers and sisters strength to continue.



Image: Jonny Gios on Unsplash



Visit the WSCC Library website and look under 'elibrary' for more information.

Alternatively pop in, email or phone us for more information to get you started.

01903 27033

Steyning.library@westsussex.gov.uk

Saint of the Month

Ini Kopuria, Founder of the Melanesian Brotherhood, c1900-1945

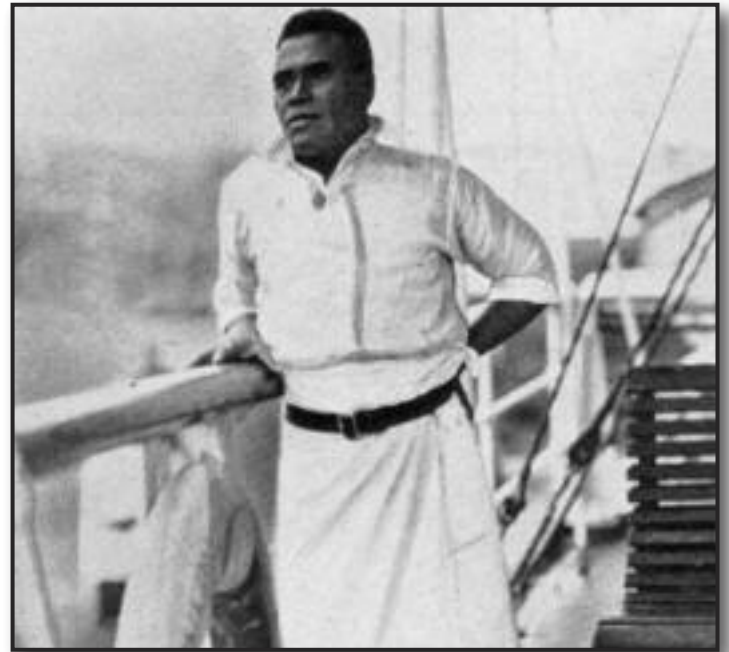
Ini Kopuria was born about 1900 in the Solomon Islands. Being an intelligent child he was taken to Norfolk Island for his schooling run by the Melanesian Mission. When he was sixteen it was suggested that he should work as a teacher at the Mission school. He rejected the idea, opting instead for service in the Armed Constabulary of the Solomon Islands Protectorate.

In 1924 while recovering in hospital from a leg injury Ini had a life-changing conversion experience. He believed God had called him to form a brotherhood of young men who would take the Christian faith to the heathen villages of Guadalcanal where he had worked as a policeman.

Ini went to Bishop Steward, the Bishop of Melanesia, and said: "I have visited all the villages as a police sergeant, let me now go to them as a missionary." Bishop Steward was sympathetic and helped him draw up a Rule of Life to constitute what became

known as the Melanesian Brotherhood. Their aim was 'to declare the way of Jesus Christ among the heathen'.

The Brothers took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience not for life but on



Ini Kopuria

an annual basis - later extended to a five year commitment. They worked in pairs and lived in 'households' of twelve, each led by an 'Elder Brother'. By 1935 the Brotherhood had increased to 128 living the Gospel in a direct and simple way of mission and service. It was said that European clergy were not always impressed and tended to treat the Brothers as second class labour for menial tasks.

Ini resisted this misuse of the Brothers and spoke against the racist assumptions of some Europeans that Melanesians were somehow inferior. In 1940 Ini resigned office as Head Brother and, after being released from his vow of celibacy, married and worked as a deacon in his villages until he died in 1945.

In the Anglican Communion he is commemorated in the Calendar of Saints on 6 June.



Together we Sing!



Chanctonbury Chorus in rehearsal

And so there I shall be, in the back row of the basses, as Chanctonbury Chorus sings once more in our lovely church.

From early last year until the autumn, we, the Chorus members, accepted in stunned and disbelieving silence what we had been told, that the Chorus would close in December with one final concert. But gradually the members found a voice and were brave enough to challenge the decision and say, 'Together We Sing!'

And so in January this year we began again, a mixture of the old and new. The Chorus is a charity and exists to sing, not just for ourselves but for you and anyone who enjoys music. Steyning is rich in music with many choirs and singing groups. We have a wonderful church choir, which we rightly value. But I fell into the Chorus, not being sure I could sing but wanting to give it a try. What I loved above all was that the Chorus sings in our church and so I

combine two parts of my life which are essential to me. Music is one of the many languages of heaven.

And so with this concert we begin again – and we need you just as much as our church needs music in all its forms. The Chorus gives me another way of talking about faith and ministry. Perhaps that's one reason why many of our team of stewards are church people who quietly demonstrate care and efficiency and Christian welcome. And so we begin. Smiles on our faces, joy in our hearts.

We need your love and support in this, our home church. Come and listen. Join us. Rejoice that this is where the sacred and the secular meet. I'm particularly looking forward to launching into the spiritual, *Ain't No Grave Can Hold My Body Down*. It says it all. This isn't the end of the story. This is just the beginning. Whether in heaven or on earth, *Together We Sing!*

Nigel Hartley

Joseph, Thank You

Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement). Acts 4:36

It is in Acts, in Jerusalem, at Pentecost where we first meet this man, Joseph from Cyprus, whom the apostles got to know and called him Barnabas.

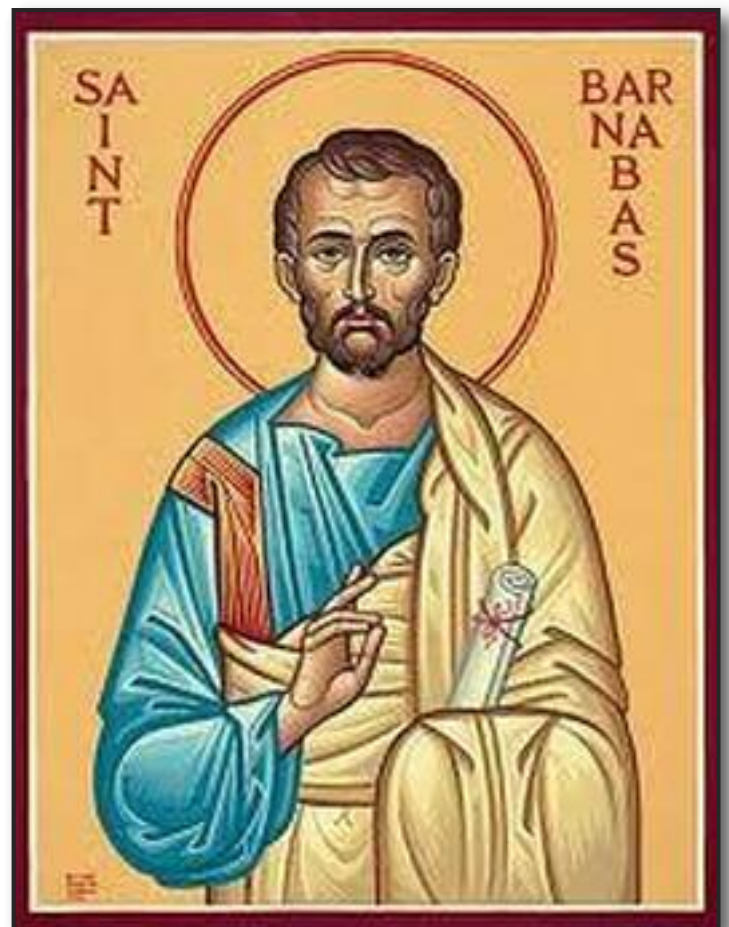
This change of name seems to refer to his character, and that will prove to have much truth, but it could also have something to do with his father's character too. Why did the apostles do that? Was there another Joseph around and this was not to muddle them up? I don't know. It was a rather complimentary nickname, I think, to be like your encouraging, consoling father, as well as being a man full of encouragement.

Toli, a member of our congregation and the Wednesday Study group at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's, is a Greek Orthodox Christian as she was born and brought up in Greece. She is a great and knowledgeable source of information about translations from the Greek to the English.

She explained to me about the derivation of the name Barnabas: "His name derives from the Aramaic 'Bar Navah' which means Son of Spokesman or Prophet. The first Greek speaking Christian church added an 's' at the end of his name as the names are normally ending in 's' for men. In Acts 4:36 it says Barnabas is *hyios parakleseos*, which means son of encouragement, or consolation, or comfort. Those are the true meaning of the Greek."

I think Barnabas was dramatically affected by what happened at this particular Pentecost, because we are told (in Acts 4:37) that he sold a field he owned and put the money at the apostles' feet. The early church faced severe persecution, headed up by Saul, and were in desperate need of greater finances. I assume this was a piece of land in Cyprus he had inherited from his father, and he was so moved, he wanted to help and be one of the early church. He was an incredibly generous giver.

Saul is a pivotal character in the history of the early church, and in Acts we can read of his amazing conversion on the road to Damascus, when he turned from hatred and fear of Jesus to one of belief and trust in him and he



Icon of St Barnabas

changed his name to Paul. It took a lot of doing for Paul to win the trust of the disciples, but Barnabas risked his own reputation, and put his arm around Paul and brought him to the apostles, and spoke up for



St Barnabas Monastery, Cyprus
(George M. Groutas, Wikimedia Commons)

him, telling them that Paul was genuinely converted and was indeed preaching about Jesus without fear. Barnabas came alongside Paul, a newbie believer with a dark reputation; he showed courage and empathy and gave encouragement.

Do you think we too must take a risk when discerning what the Holy Spirit is doing in someone's life?

Barnabas was showing the apostles that he truly had several gifts that he was using for Jesus, that they decided he was the obvious one to send to Antioch to find out what was happening to lots of new followers of Jesus who had come together from many different places and backgrounds seemingly led by a man called Simeon. This kind of gathering was completely new for the apostles, so they thought they must send someone to journey north to see and report back.

When Barnabas arrived in Antioch he reported that he saw the grace of God at work. How wonderful that must have been, but lots of new people forming a new group of Christians need lots of guidance and help, so Barnabas sent for Paul to join him. Barnabas was the encourager who provided the

launchpad for Paul's great missionary journeys and his letters to the churches that form an important part of our Bible today.

The Bible tells us a little more about Barnabas and Paul and how, eventually,

they have an enormous disagreement causing them to go their separate ways. Barnabas continued God's work but with another person, Mark, by his side.

Disagreements and separations do happen in life, but this shows me it is still possible for God's work to continue. Not everything in life depends on us, and we may need to take a back seat, and let God direct. It is because of Barnabas that we now have Mark's gospel.

Probably the best form of encouragement Barnabas points to is that he encourages us all to be ourselves, and to think how we can be encouragers to others. Is that what you think of Barnabas?

I wonder who has been a Barnabas in your life? I wonder if you can think of a situation in your life where God has put you there to be a Barnabas?

I don't know if Barnabas saw the emerging, huge impact of his missionary work, and the spread of Christianity. Perhaps none of us know what impact our lives have on others, and, probably, I don't think we need to. If we follow his command to love one another, and to pray in his name, and trust God, he will take care of all that.

Chris Fitton

Families and Children

Hello Everyone. I want to start this month's message with a massive thank you to everyone who gets involved with everything we do.

If it wasn't for all of you, none of our outreach would happen. We are a church who is reaching our community in new ways – and some not so new ways. But no matter, if it is something new we are doing or something we have been running for many years, all of these things are sowing and building the Kingdom of God. So thank you for all you do.

Steyning Festival

We had a fun packed morning as part of the Steyning Festival, filled with craft, games and a chance to pray and reflect, all in the space of two hours.



Family Camp

We are off to family camp later this month. We are super-excited as it will be a fun packed weekend away. So please, during the weekend of 19 – 21 June, do pray for the music group, for Gary and all those attending.



Board Game Cafés

The afternoon board game café is run in partnership with the Steyning Community Wardens, and is OPEN TO ANYONE OF ANY AGE. The board game café runs once a month, on the second Tuesday, 3:15pm to 5:15pm. The next session is on 9 June.

The board game café evening edition takes place once a month on the fourth Monday, from 6pm to 9pm. It has been great to see this group growing. We look forward to our next one on 22 June.

Fire Pit Services



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 14th June do come and join us as we would love to see you.

Little Stars

This last month has seen the Monday group growing with new people that are coming back weekly which is great to see. The Thursday group now consistently has a steady number attending on a weekly basis.

We are searching for four amazing people to join the Thursday team. Could you help out once in every six weeks? This could be making drinks, chatting with adults or playing with the children. So please come and put your skills to use in this lovely group. Why not have a chat with one of our team members to see why they enjoy giving up time to support this amazing group.



Steyning Primary School



We will be supporting the school this month by covering the school gates during their colour run fundraiser on Friday 26 June. The colour run is a non-competitive fun run where participants are covered in coloured powder at various points along the route.

Unlike traditional races, the focus is on community engagement, fundraising and enjoyment, rather than speed or performance. It will be a lot of fun.

Blessings
Gary



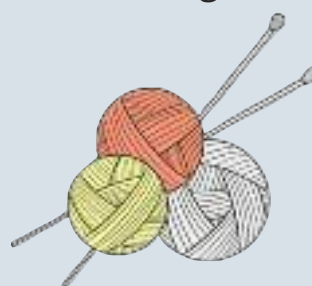
Dungeons and Dragons

In partnership with the neighbourhood wardens and the Parish Council's youth worker we will be aiming to set up a Dungeons & Dragons group. D&D is a story telling role play game. We aim to start this before the summer holidays. The group will be limited to 12 young people; each young person will create a character to use in the campaign story and each story may last many sessions of the group.

ANY KNITTERS OUT THERE?

Last year's Angel Drop at Christmas went down so well that we would love to do it again this year. So, if you are a knitter or crocheter and can make angels for me we would love your help. The children, parents and staff at the Primary School all loved seeing and receiving the angels.

So if you can help I would truly appreciate your help and support.



Gary

The Arts Society, Steyning

Talk for June: *When Britain Clicked: Photography of the Swinging Sixties*

Speaker: *Brian Stater*

Monday 8 June

The Steyning Centre, 9:45 for 10:30am

British photography enjoyed a golden age in the 1960s. Young, talented newcomers broke out of the conventional studio to revolutionise perceptions of fashion, portraiture and popular culture. This lecture looks at a range of superb images from photographers such as David Bailey, Terence Donovan, Lewis Morley, Tony Ray-Jones and Jane Bown.

Brian Stater lectured at University College London for 25 years, and has written on architecture for a wide range of publications. Guest tickets £10.



Special Lecture: *The Roots of Jazz*

Speaker: *Emma Johnson*

Tuesday 23 June

The Steyning Centre, 7pm for 7:45pm.

This is the fourth lecture in our annual evening series celebrating the legacy of our founder, Millicent Honeywood.

New Orleans at the end of the 19th century was a busy port welcoming ships and sailors from all over the world bringing with them many styles of music. It was one of the few places in America where the music of the slave population was not just tolerated but openly enjoyed by black and white communities alike. It was not long before such a kaleidoscope of musical traditions would come together, react, and evolve into an exciting new music, namely jazz. In this talk we look at the part African Blues, Classical and Vaudeville, Latin Dance and Middle Eastern Klezmer all played in the story of jazz. We'll enjoy along the way some of the greatest musical artists of the twentieth century.



Emma is a clarinettist who studied Music and English at Pembroke College, Cambridge and was the first woman to be made an Honorary Fellow.

Tickets £12.50 (members and guests, on sale at June talk or online at tickettailor.com.)

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

12 June from 2pm until

4pm. Please feel free to

join us if you are in need of



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

support following a loss of any kind – not only bereavement, we offer support for all situations. Tea and coffee and biscuits are served in safe surroundings.

*Judie Thomson,
Authorised Lay Minister,
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator*

The Steyning Society

Friday, 19 June

At the Steyning Centre, 7 for 7:30pm

Chris Hare

Folk Song and Folk Song Collectors

Chris Hare has been studying history for 45 years and learning and singing folk songs for almost as long. In this talk he brings these two passions together. He will be focusing on the life and work of Sussex folk song collector, Lucy Broadwood, who led a full and eventful life.

At the April meeting the annual Steyning Bowl awards were presented. The main award went to Zoe Peate and Gary Prior, for their work with local choirs including Cantatrice and Kaleidoscope Singers. The following received certificates: Siobhan Denning, former musical director, Chanctonbury Chorus, Diane Gargano for Steyning Strummers and Singers, Janet Gawn for Steyning Jazz Club, Christabel Heasman-Cossins for Sing Out Sister and Brian and Marion Sawyer for their contribution to music at Steyning Parish Church.



Chris Hare

War and the Middle East Crisis: Christians and the Holy Land

“We thirst for peace between the warring nations of the world and cry out for an end to the literally pointless war consuming the Middle East at the moment”

The Archbishop of York in his Easter Sunday sermon (Church Times 8 April 2026)

Dr Roger Williamson, with Catherine Berry and Christine Aubrey, gave a talk on 18 April in the Penfold Hall about the effects of the current war on the life of Christians in the Middle East and the Holy Land. Roger Williamson is a former Director of Policy and Campaigns for Christian Aid, has organised nearly 80 conferences for the UK government based at Wiston House (Wilton Park), and has worked as a consultant with the UN. We are pleased that Fr Fadi Diab from Ramallah, whose work featured in the talk, hopes to be visiting Steyning soon.

My reflections here are developed from my address on 18 April.

Religion as a factor in conflict

Religion is a factor in many wars, particularly in the Middle East. It is often invoked to justify war - and divine sanction is claimed for one's own side.

The Pope has been very clear in his advocacy of peace and in his rejection of sanctification of war. In his Good Friday

sermon he said that God “does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war.” This was not popular with the US administration. The Pope has made it clear that he will continue to preach peace and will not be intimidated.

We need to recognize the continued role of religion in conflict situations, but also to recognise that what are seen as ‘religious conflicts’ are almost always a

I wrote recently about my connection with **Fr Fadi Diab** and his congregation at the church of St Andrew's **Ramallah** in the Occupied West Bank, and my earlier visit to catch up with him in Cheltenham.

I emphasised his urgent call to Christians to take action in support of the diminishing number of Christians in the Holy Land, in the light of the current dire threat to the existence of Palestinians. I asked the question “what can we do here in Steyning?”

Initially, Roger Williamson, Christine Aubrey and I, at the wise suggestion of Fr Mark, got together and arranged an event which Christine kindly chaired. I spoke of the importance of building relationships with the Christian community in the Holy Land, and of the support we could offer by helping our community to understand and engage honestly with the difficulties faced by Palestinians. I described

Fr Fadi as a true shepherd to his people, unstinting in his efforts to protect and advocate for his flock.

Roger gave an excellent and very thorough talk outlining the history of conflict in Middle East, with special reference to Israel/Palestine (see summary on p21). He addressed the need for us to examine what prevents us from engaging in support of the Palestinians, and particularly the Christians living in Gaza and the Occupied West Bank: a sense of ignorance in the face of a hugely complex situation, and a fear of making comments that might be construed as anti-semitic.

The talk was attended by about 30 people from local churches and the community. Several asked questions and suggested further actions, such as a **prayer link with St Andrew's Ramallah**, seeking the support of the newly-formed **Steyning for Peace**, engaging with

complex of intertwined issues of land, power and identity. Such conflicts are particularly intractable.

The conflict in the Holy Land

What can be done to break the long-lasting spiral of violence in the Holy Land? How does the almost universal recognition of both Israel and Palestine by other countries fit together? What could fair boundaries be – those which offer both sides peace and security?

The latest cycle of open warfare began with the appalling attack by Hamas on the south of Israel, leading to the death of about 1,200 people and the capture of 251 hostages. This was the worst loss of Jewish life in a single day since the Holocaust.

From there escalation has followed:

- Over 70,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, and over 700 in the last 6 months since the “ceasefire”.
- Israeli troops have invaded Lebanon, displacing over a million Lebanese citizens – Muslims and Christians

Fr Fadi and his congregation and continuing to provide opportunities for **further learning and discussion**. We would like to express our profound gratitude to all those who attended, who donated so generously to our Easter Red Bucket charities and whose suggestions demonstrated a real desire for some kind of commitment. The collection at the meeting alone yielded almost £400.00. The full total for humanitarian initiatives in the region including the Red Bucket collections during the Easter period was £950.00.

Describing the event to Fr Fadi, I asked him: “What can we do here in Steyning?”

He replied: “I would humbly suggest a few things that are deeply helpful to us at this time. First, continue educating and widening the circle - helping others to see, to listen, and to understand.



Fr Fadi Diab (Friends of the Holy Land))

Israel and the USA have conducted massive attacks on Iran.

- There are more or less fragile ceasefires at the time of writing (end of April/beginning of May), but there is little sign of comprehensive peace in the Middle East today.

No to antisemitism, yes to international law, human rights and protection of civilians

We must oppose antisemitism – ordinary members of a synagogue in Manchester, or a Jewish school in

“Second, advocacy is vital: encouraging churches, institutions, and leaders to speak clearly and courageously for justice, dignity, and peace.

“Third, prayer remains essential—not as a passive act, but as a sustaining force that keeps us rooted in hope and love even in the darkest moments. And finally, building relationships - real, human connections that affirm that we are not alone—is perhaps one of the most powerful forms of witness”.

I could never have anticipated his offer to come and visit us here in Steyning while he is in England for two major church events, the Methodist Conference and the Anglican General Synod.

We are now busy planning Fr Fadi’s visit – watch this space, see the weekly notices and the website!

Catherine Berry

London, or Jewish people standing at a bus stop in Golders Green are not responsible for the destruction of Gaza. They should feel secure on our streets and in the buildings which support their community life.

As well as affirming his organisation's continued support for Israel, Phil Rosenberg, President, Board of Deputies of British Jews, struck a critical note: "We won't defend the indefensible. What we have seen in the West Bank... is unacceptable. We won't defend it."

What can we do in Steyning and in partnership with the Christians of the Region?

Our parish has supported the victims of the war in Ukraine. Many of them needed to leave the country because of the war and make a new start here.

Now it is time to show solidarity with Christian communities in the Holy Land, Jewish voices for peace (such as Rabbis for Human Rights), and their Muslim neighbours. Palestinians today, especially the Christians of the Holy Land, need support to be able to stay in, or close to, their traditional homes in spite of the war(s).

We are now planning the Steyning leg of the visit by Fr Fadi for a couple of days, if all goes to plan this could be between his attendance at two national church conferences, the Methodist Conference and the Anglican General Synod.

Thankfully, we have now started a process of humanitarian support for the Middle East and closer ties with the

For further details:

See the Christian Aid website:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/dec-middle-east-humanitarian-appeal>

And the Friends of the Holy Land website:

<https://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk>

This contains testimonies from local Christians, statements by church leaders as well as prayer and worship resources.

It would be absurd to argue that Rosenberg's view is antisemitic.

And it is not antisemitic for us to call for an end to occupation of conquered territories, a stop to the construction of illegal settlements on the West Bank and attacks which kill a disproportionate number of civilians.

Singling out Jewish people for attack because they are Jewish is antisemitic. Well-founded criticism of particular policies of the State of Israel is not.

Christian communities there as Catherine outlines. We are doing this primarily through two organisations, Christian Aid and Friends of the Holy Land.

Christian Aid is the bigger of the two. It also works with Jewish groups, secular and religious groups in:

- Gaza, where there are fewer than 1000 Christians now. The appeal is already addressing food shortages in Gaza.
- The Occupied Territories – where there is increasing violence in the West Bank.
- Lebanon addressing displacement of 1 million people in the South.

Already the Christian Aid Middle East Humanitarian Appeal has raised £5.3 million and 1.2 million people have been assisted.

Friends of the Holy Land is a smaller organisation which has a strong local network of parishes and communities currently helping about 2500 Christians each year. Their projects are in three fields: humanitarian, development and healing. They say: "Our vision is for Christians to remain and thrive in the Holy Land..."

A Palestinian Christian Perspective

How does this all look to the Palestinian Christian community, which has now shrunk to less than 2% of the population of the Holy Land?

A leading Palestinian theologian Revd Dr Mitri Raheb speaks of the challenge of faith after Gaza: “Christian theologians have failed to see that the promised land is confiscated land. The preoccupation of Christian theologians with the Bible, with the fear of being called anti-Semitic, and guilt about the Holocaust have disguised the ongoing colonisation of Palestine” (*Decolonizing Palestine*, p. 80).

Two states, one state.... Or more violence?

The two-state solution is being made more and more impossible by new settlements and attacks on the Palestinian community. Prime Minister Netanyahu has promised his base that a Palestinian state will never happen – so “No to a two-state solution”.

So what about the idea of one undivided state with full and equal rights for both Israelis and Palestinians? Can one imagine an Israeli government or the Israeli electorate voting for that? Surely they would see full rights for the Palestinians as a demographic and even security threat.

What remains then? Unless things drastically improve, the future holds continued war, bloodshed and occupation. A permanent uneasy stand-off even when there is not open war.

Three levels of desirable outcomes

- Peace in the region; first durable ceasefires, then sustainable peace negotiations.



Dr Geries Khoury (Kairos Palestine)

- Humanitarian assistance and help for refugees and displaced persons.
- Strengthening the United Nations, reversing cuts to aid budgets and opposing hardening attitudes to refugees in our country and others.

A recent conversation I had with a senior official from Islamic Relief stressed that NGOs, and particularly faith-based organisations, are becoming increasingly important as governments cut humanitarian aid programmes. This is most serious in the case of governments, including ours, who have previously been major donors.

The Holy Land – religious museum or living Christian community?

Over 35 years ago, at a conference in Sweden which we co-organised, my late friend Dr Geries Khoury warned what could happen in the future:

“You will visit all the historical sites and shrines and come at last to the Holy Sepulchre. You will be shown in by a Franciscan from Italy or somewhere else in Europe. You will see the stone which was rolled away- and maybe you will hear a voice from above, saying ‘He is not here, he is risen. Go and seek him in the churches of Palestine’ – but you will

look in vain because all of the Christians will have left, because life was too hard for them, the pressure was too much, they went abroad to try to earn the money for the food for their families. And then you will feel sad as you remember what could have been done, while the Church of the 'living stones' was still here. You will look at the deserted church buildings and think: 'if only we had helped when the congregation was still a living one'."

Roger Williamson



Church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem (Gerd Eichmann, Wikimedia Commons)

Recipe for June

Tomato and feta muffins

Ingredients

80ml olive oil (or a mix),
plus extra for greasing;
2 Medium Eggs;
2 tsp dried oregano, plus extra
for sprinkling;
20g Parmigiano Reggiano,
finely grated;
1 tbsp tomato purée;
½ tsp sea salt flakes;
100g natural yogurt;
125g feta, 75g crumbled, 50g cubed;
80g cherry tomatoes, quartered,
plus 6 halved;
180g spelt flour (or plain
flour);
½ tsp baking powder;
½ tsp bicarbonate of soda.

Method

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C, gas mark 6 and grease 6 holes of a muffin tin (or use large paper muffin cases to line the tin).

2. Mix the oil with the oregano, eggs, Parmigiano Reggiano, tomato purée, salt, yogurt, crumbled feta, quartered cherry tomatoes and a little ground black pepper.

3. Add the flour, baking powder and bicarbonate of soda and, using a large spoon, stir just enough to combine. (Don't overmix; a few small lumps are better than a tough muffin.)

4. Divide the mixture between the six muffin holes (about 100g each).

5. Top each one with 2 tomato halves, 2 small cubes feta and a sprinkle of oregano; bake for 15 minutes until fragrant and bouncy.

6. Cool for 10-15 minutes before easing from the tin.

Becky



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1. Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/saint-andrew-and-saint-cuthman-steyning/> and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

3. After you've checked out, the retailer will make a donation to us at no cost to you.

Our last quarterly payment was £99.23, which puts our cause in the top 20%. We have now raised a total of £515.29.

Thank you for your support.

Church Flowers

6 June

Christine Aubrey

13 and 20 June

Sue Clare

27 June

Jayne Meyler

Many thanks to all for the wonderful arrangements in church during Easter.



Carol
McKechnie

Parish Registers

Baptisms & Confirmations - see p7

Wedding

**30 May Christopher John Read
and Tiffany Jade Fowler**

Funeral

**17 May Katherine (Coina) Hendricks
(d 21/4/26)**

Interment of Ashes

5 May Gillian Downham (d 30/8/25)





The Ringed Plover Performance

Juvenile Ringed Plover
© Roger Wilmshurst

Big eyes, short legs, and frequently described as ‘rotund’; there’s no denying it. Ringed plovers are adorable. Our UK residents are joined by overwintering migrants and can be found all around our coastline and some estuaries, in shingle and wetland habitats.

These charismatic waders possess spectacular acting talents. Little orange feet stamp sandy ground to mimic falling raindrops, tempting out tasty subterranean crustacean snacks. Mates are wooed with marching high-kick dance routines. Shingle nest preparation involves an umbrella of wings and much flinging of shells in a dramatic ceremony.

Being masters of disguise, ringed plover nests are inconspicuous, with both dappled eggs and fluffball chicks seamlessly blending into their sand and stone surroundings. This is optimum for

ground-nesting predator evasion, and chicks will freeze, Jurassic Park style, should a marauder enter their midst.

Hiding in plain sight, however, leaves the species incredibly vulnerable to disturbance, especially on our overpopulated and well-trodden coastlines. Eggs can easily be crushed under the flimsiest of flip-flops, and chicks are hard to spot until very close by. And a bigger problem still: free-roaming dogs.



Ringed Plover nest © Roger Wilmshurst

It doesn't matter if your beloved pup is the best-behaved boy in town, with great recall and no prey drive. Domestic dogs replicate natural predators, and even if they aren't likely to take a chick or investigate a nest, they can easily and unintentionally cause disturbance when off the lead.

Ringed plover parents are fiercely committed to nest protection, even theatrically feigning a broken wing to lure predators away from their precious offspring. But feisty though they be, they weigh only 65 grams; no match for a snuffling hound.

An increase in these acts of disturbance, habitat loss and climate change have contributed to a significant decline in numbers of UK ringed plovers since the mid-1980s, and the species is now on the UK red list.

To help, you can keep your dog on a lead whilst walking around our coastlines, especially during March to August, the breeding season for these, and many other bird species. You can



Ringed Plover © Alan Price

keep your distance; good practice for all wildlife watching, but especially with ground-nesting birds. And you can tell other people, to help raise awareness of the otherwise unknown perils of simply letting your dog off the lead.

In highlighting these issues, we hope the ringed plover performance may long continue. They just need less audience interaction.

Kerry Williams: Communications Officer - Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Wednesday Coffee

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 for coffee, tea, biscuits, friendly chat and big smiles. Several of our visitors go over the road to church for the Wednesday morning 11:30am service, but you can

stay on chatting, too. No charge, but donations are always welcome.

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**

STEYNING PARISH CHURCH - Services for June

Every Sunday

- 8am 1662 Holy Communion Service
- 9:30am Sung Eucharist each Sunday choir and organ, except on Sunday 21 June with the Music Group: a simpler communion service, for all ages.
- 6pm Evening service:
First Sunday (7 June): Reflections, a quiet, peaceful evening service, entitled 'The Inner Garden'
Second Sunday (14 June) Firepit service (outside by the tower, in the porch if wet)
Second Sunday (14 June): said BCP / 1662 Evening Prayer service
Third Sunday (21 June) Choral Evensong, BCP / 1662, with choir and organ
Fourth Sunday (28 June) Taizé service

Every Wednesday

- 11:30am Said Holy Communion (Common Worship)
(Last Wednesday, 24 June; with prayers for healing)

ST JAMES'S, ASHURST - Services for June

Sundays

- 11am First Sunday (7 June) Zoom Matins
- 10:30am Second Sunday (14 June) Family Service
'God's Acre' celebrating God's glory in the churchyard
- Fourth Sunday (28 June) Holy Communion

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

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