

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

Fr Fadi Visits Steyning



August 2026
ISSUED FREE

Registered Charity No 1132913



Summer Garden Day

Sunday 16 August 2026, 1 – 5 pm

Help raise funds for church improvements
at our special garden open day

Home-made cream teas
Plant stall bargains
Expert Painting and Sculpture
Steypning's "Ask the Gardener"

Rosebank, Jarvis Lane, Steypning, BN44 3GL

£15 — includes all activities
£10 — without "Ask the Gardener"

Ticketsource.com/fospc or Steypning Bookshop (cash only) or on
the day

Supporting The Friends of Steypning Church
Info at friendsfospc.org/gardenday



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

GOOD GRIEF

Café



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

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

The Parish Church of St Andrew
& St Cuthman, Steypning



STEYPNING PARISH CHURCH

LUNCHTIME CONCERTS

TUESDAYS

12.30pm – 1pm

16th June - Kadenza
23rd June - Brian Sawyer - Organ Recital
30th June - Steypning Primary School
7th July - Steypning 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



 Steypning Parish Church
 Steypning_Parish_Church
 steypningparishchurch.org





Lunchtime Recitals

Saturday 1st August 2026 - 1pm

John Twitchen - Tenor
Florentine String Quartet
Helen Ridout - Piano



A programme of English music featuring the song cycle 'On Wenlock Edge' by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

John is a Sussex based tenor making a name for himself in Oratorio, Opera and as a Recitalist. He'll be performing alongside well-established musicians who between them have a wealth of experience on the concert platform.
johntwitchen.com

Tickets £7 available on the door or in advance from the Steypning Bookshop or online



SCAN ME



Steypning Parish Church of
St. Andrew & St. Cuthman
Vicarage Lane
Steypning
BN44 3YQ

steypningparishchurch.org

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Cover picture: Steyning was blessed to welcome Fr Fadi Diab, Rector of St Andrew's Ramallah, on the weekend of 4/ 5 July, in between his speeches at the Methodist Conference and the General Synod. At the 9:30 service in Steyning he was interviewed by Christine Aubrey (see <https://steyningparishchurch.org/sermons>).

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

Title Surname Forenames

House No/name Postcode Date

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

Registered Charity No: 1132913

Prayer Diary for August

Sunday 2 August; Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church: open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace.

Thursday 6 August; the Transfiguration of our Lord



Father in heaven, whose Son Jesus Christ was wonderfully transfigured before chosen witnesses upon the holy

mountain, and spoke of the exodus he would accomplish at Jerusalem: give us strength so to hear his voice and bear our cross that in the world to come we may see him as he is.

Sunday 9 August; Tenth Sunday after Trinity

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions, make them to ask such things as shall please you.

Saturday 15 August; the Blessed Virgin Mary

Almighty God, who looked upon the lowliness of the Blessed Virgin Mary and chose her to be the mother of your only Son: grant that we who are redeemed by his blood may share with her in the glory of your eternal kingdom.

Sunday 16 August; Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

O God, you declare your almighty power most chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant to us such a measure of your grace, that we, running the way of your commandments, may receive your gracious promises, and be made partakers of your heavenly treasure.

Sunday 23 August; Twelfth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and to give more than either we desire or deserve: pour down upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

Monday 24 August; Bartholomew the Apostle

Almighty and everlasting God, who gave to your apostle Bartholomew grace truly to believe and to preach your word: grant that your Church may love that word which he believed and may faithfully preach and receive the same.

Sunday 30 August; Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity

Almighty God, who called your Church to bear witness that you were in Christ reconciling the world to yourself: help us to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may be drawn to you; through him who was lifted up on the cross.

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends in the Steyning community, greetings and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you for the warm welcome you extended to me during my visit to Steyning. Thank you for opening your homes, your churches, and your community spaces with such generosity and kindness. It was a tremendous privilege to meet such a wonderful, caring, and hospitable community.

From the very beginning, I felt as though I had known you for years. That is a remarkable gift, and it speaks volumes about the warmth, openness, and love that characterise your community. Thank you for making me feel so completely at home.

I would especially like to thank your vicar, the Revd Fr Mark Heather for welcoming me so warmly, for inviting me to participate in worship and for the care and dedication he invested in the visit. My sincere thanks also go to the wonderful team of volunteers and organisers whose hard work, generosity and attention to detail made the visit such a meaningful and successful experience.

Steyning is a beautiful town, but what makes it truly special is its people. Throughout my visit, I was deeply moved by your attentive listening, your thoughtful questions and your genuine concern for your Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, as well as for all who long for justice and peace. Your compassion is a powerful witness to the Gospel and reflects your commitment to the ministry of the Reign of God – a kingdom where justice, compassion, reconciliation, and neighbourly love prevail.

I look forward to continuing our friendship and working together in the months ahead to strengthen the bond between your community and St Andrew's Church in Ramallah. May we continue to discover new ways to serve the Gospel of Christ together, to deepen our mutual understanding, and to bear faithful witness to God's love in our world.

Thank you once again for your friendship, your prayers, and your generous hospitality. May God richly bless each one of you, your families, your churches and the whole Steyning community.



*With gratitude and every blessing,
Fr Fadi Diab
Rector, St Andrew's Episcopal Church
Ramallah, Palestine*

FROM THE EDITOR

Our house groups (see the directory on pages 26 and 27 of the print version of this magazine) seem to be gaining in strength.

We currently have five groups, three long-established and two formed more recently, which involve 43 people in all. Two others ceased after Covid, but some members of those groups still meet informally so the true numbers are slightly more. Most, but not all, attend St Andrew's & St Cuthman's, but some belong primarily to another church.

As the name suggests, the groups can meet in members' houses, but some meet in the Penfold Hall. All are led by lay people – though in the group I attend we are privileged to have the benefit of the love and wisdom of Fr Ray, one of our retired clergy. Meetings are at various intervals, typically twice each month.

Subjects studied or discussed are chosen by the groups themselves; often following a Diocesan Lent Course or looking in depth at a particular Gospel (2026 being the year of St Matthew in our Diocese) or concentrating on a set of Lectionary readings.

The courses offer a way of deepening discipleship and faith through a wider understanding of prayer and the Bible. Discussions prove that we don't always agree (neither did the Gospel writers) but we can all benefit from greater understanding and spiritual growth. If you would like to join a group, please speak to one of the clergy or a churchwarden.

Blessings,
Bill

Sunday Notices

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

office@steyningparishchurch.org
or ring 01903 813276

To add any new prayer requests contact:

prayers@steyningparishchurch.org
or ring 01903 813276.

Reflections Service



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

A Summer Garden Day

The Friends of Steyning Parish Church will be holding a Garden Day on Sunday 16 August, from 1pm to 5pm, at Rosebank, Jarvis Lane, Steyning BN44 3GL.

Come and enjoy a home-made cream tea, pick up a bargain at the plant stall and enjoy the display of expert art and sculpture at our special Summer Garden Day.

You will also be able to find answers to awkward gardening issues from our panel of highly respected gardeners and horticulturalists.

All funds raised will go towards essential repairs for the Church and to improve it as a venue for community events.

The panel of expert gardeners for 'Ask the Gardener' will be chaired by Elisabeth Harden of Steyning in Bloom. Also on the panel will be Alex Bell, designer of the Rosebank garden; Lynne Broome of the Steyning Gardening Society; along with highly knowledgeable and keen gardeners, Debbie Chalmers and Sue Reed. This part of the afternoon starts at 2pm in the Steyning Centre's Saxon Room, located two minutes' walk from Rosebank.

"Questions for the panel can be submitted in advance [email friends@friendsofspc.org] although it will be an informal and spontaneous event so the panel will welcome further questions," explains Sarah Leigh, host of the event and the Church historian.

"We would also be delighted to receive any plants you may wish to donate for our stall. If so, please bring



them to Rosebank from 10 August and leave them in the greenhouse. Be sure to label them and leave a note saying what you have donated."

Artwork on display will include recent works by professional artist, Suzy Barnard, and paintings of the Church by Elisabeth Harden. There will also be a short informal talk about a huge sculpture by Terry New which resides at Rosebank, while Penny Reeve will explain how she was inspired to create Cuthman, the sculpture opposite the Church.

All are welcome to this relaxed, social event, be they Friends of the Church, local gardeners and anyone else. We look forward to seeing you.

Although artworks will be on display, they are not for sale.

Rosebank is located on the corner of Jarvis Lane, opposite Holland Road.

Tickets: From Steyning Book Shop (cash only), or online from ticketsource.com/fospc. Cost is £15 to include all activities, or £10 for all activities except 'Ask the Gardener'.

Image: Ronak Valobobhai on Unsplash



Hope

I read the following in the Church Times in April that set my mind on a train of thought I have decided to share with you. Please bear with the rather random paragraphs that follow, but I hope you may read something that resonates with you.

“A rabbi taught me about the two different kinds of hope in Hebrew: ‘tikvah’ which is the hope of redemption (whatever we mean by that – salvation, say; or an end to war; or ongoing cancer remission), and ‘yachel’, which is the hope that is quiet and waits patiently.”

– Canon Claire Gilbert

The garden is always a wonderful place to find hope – ‘yachel’ – even though Spring, the season associated with hope, is now gone and Summer sings its shades of green, pinks, reds, purples etc. There is still hope to be found round every turn or corner or under every leaf or woodpile. I have a

friend who, every day of the year, early in the morning, sits in her garden, or under the shade of an awning, to find space for prayer and meditation. Every day in that half hour of peace, with maybe the rain, or a friendly pigeon, she finds hope, she finds delights and can be thankful. She tells me that amid a multitude of health or other worries, God is good.

Hope is a fundamental part of Christian faith, and this last Easter at the start of April, the Season of Hope, I listened to our new Archbishop with great interest as it was her first Easter sermon. She said, *“God is at work in the quiet depths of the tomb. God does not wait for the sun to rise to begin the work of saving the world; the life-giving work is already at full strength in the darkness.”* Here she is showing that grief and hope go hand in hand, and she continued, *“Perhaps you are here today with your own version of the dark, with your own heart shattered ... maybe knocked off course by illness, bereavement, unemployment, or any other human crisis, I pray that God walks with you through that darkness.”*

What does the darkness mean to you? That time in the deep of night of silence and stillness; when the night is interminably long and the dawn seems so, so slow to arrive; the waiting seems everlasting, even though we know it will come. That seems to be like ‘tikvah’ hope.

I think it must be ‘tikvah’ hope also when we ask the question “Where can we find hope in the world today?” Where would you look to answer that? I really am thinking about that...

Perhaps knowing that the dawn will break across the skies of the world's deep troubles requires patient, quiet, deep, Spirit filled faith and hope. Psalm 42:5 is a talk to ones-self reminding one to Hope in God

*Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.*

Does hope in God come naturally to you, or do you have to give yourself a little bit of talking-to about it? That's me! When I find, and accept for myself this hope, I can praise God. Generally, many psalmists wrote of their wrestle and fight and struggle to keep their hope in God, so that gives me greater strength to fight and struggle more to

keep on the path and not get discouraged, downcast or depressed. Hope in God feels like a reservoir of emotional strength, because we then want something good for the future, and hope/believe, it will happen. I want to say that I find hope changes, and makes a shift, in my soul.

For God is not unjust; he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake – in serving the saints, as you still do. And we want each one of you to show the same diligence, so as to realise the full assurance of hope to the very end so that you may not become sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

– Hebrews 6:10 -12 | continued over ➡

Ride and Stride - Advance Notice

Ride + Stride is an annual event that raises more than £1.5 million for churches right across the country. For the Sussex Historic Churches Trust, it is by far the biggest fundraiser of the year and plays a vital role in enabling SHCT to help churches throughout East and West Sussex (including our own). Funds raised are shared equally between the Trust and the place of worship nominated by each participant.



The 2026 Ride + Stride fundraiser is taking place on Saturday, September 12

Get your friends and family to sponsor you and then visit as many different churches as you can throughout the day. You can choose any route you want and any mode of transport – walk, run, cycle, ride, or even drive – between the different churches on the route you've chosen. You can be sponsored either based on the number of churches you manage to visit or by a flat donation. Speak to John Downe in church on Sundays for more information and sponsor forms.

Here, in the letter Paul writes to the Hebrews, he places the *full assurance of hope*, and *faith* together in the same verse; faith and hope are walking side by side, and hand in hand. A little later in Hebrews 10:22 we read the phrase “*in full assurance of faith*”; the faithfulness of God is assured to us, from before we are born and through to beyond death. So, when I am feeling down, fearful or depressed, God is ever faithful, he will not waver, he is iron strong.

My final little thought to share is because I have been remembering a chorus from a hymn from my teenage years, *Will your anchor hold* – you may know it too. It is also based on a Hebrews passage:

The hope set before us is an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.

– Hebrews 6:19

Deborah Ann Belka (a modern-day Christian poet) wrote this poem (right):

Chris Fitton

My Anchor, My Hope

*Father, tether me to the anchor,
where I can put my trust
tie me tightly to the rock
so my faith won't get crushed.*

*Securely fasten me,
to the reason for my hope
may the fibres of your grace
be the strength, to help me cope.*

*Father, tether me to the anchor,
who will hear my daily prayers
to the one who will shelter me
while taking away my cares.*

*Bring me safely to the shore,
when floating out to sea
let the Holy Spirit direct
and constantly guide me.*

*Father, tether me to the anchor,
the Saviour of my soul
give to him, in my life . . .
complete power and control!*

Thank You Holy Dusters

I'm sure you agree that our church always looks beautiful and many visitors comment on how well-kept the building is. This is thanks partly to our team of holy dusters who meet once a fortnight on a Saturday for an hour to dust, polish, sweep and Hoover. Prior to Covid there was a team of 21 volunteers but now our number has dwindled to eight. We enjoy our work caring for our church but would love to have a larger team, so that if we have other commitments, we wouldn't feel that we were letting our friends down.



If you would like more information, or are keen to join us, please speak to one of the churchwardens. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Holy Duster team on behalf of Fr Mark and the churchwardens for all their hard work. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated team.

Kate Burnett

Saint of the Month

ST CUTHBURGA, ABBESS (c655-725)

Cuthburga was the sister of Ine, King of Wessex (688-726) and was married to Aldfrith, King of Northumbria (685-704) who was sympathetic to his wife's Christianity. They had two sons and a daughter.

According to Florence of Worcester who wrote a life of Cuthburga, at some time before her husband's death they decided to renounce their marriage "for the Love of God". Cuthburga entered the nunnery at Barking Abbey run by Abbess Hildelith.

After Aldfrith's death, Cuthburga and her sister Quenburga established a double monastery in her brother's Kingdom of Wessex at Wimborne in Dorset. Like many such monasteries of the time it was predominantly a nunnery with the monks responsible for the hard work in addition to prayer.

Cuthburga was a formidable abbess who only communicated with the monks by means of a little hatch in the

nunnery wall. The Benedictine rule of the Order was austere but hospitality of pilgrims was important as was caring for the poor of the area. Within ten years of its foundation there were about fifty

nuns and, by the year 750 there were three monasteries, one for men and two for women.

Cuthburga died on 31 August 725 and it is said that her body was buried under the wall of the chancel of the Abbey. Her feast day is kept on the date of her death. She was famed as being assiduous in prayer and fasting.

It is thought that her sister, Quenburga, succeeded her as Abbess and ruled for a further ten years until her death in 735.

A Danish raid in 1013 destroyed the Abbey. It was refounded in 1043 by Edward the Confessor. Following the Reformation, the Abbey was reconstituted as the parish church of Wimborne and became Wimborne Minster.



Family Support Work Jazz Concert

The concert at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's on 4 July, with the Riverboat Shuffle jazz band, raised £1,100 Family Support Work in Sussex.

Our FSW team thanks all those who came and gave so generously on a gorgeous summer evening.

Penny Warner

F Family
S Support
W Work
for
The Sussex Charity for Children
Since 1890

Steyning Parochial Church Council

The St Andrew's & St Cuthman's PCC meets about six times per year, usually on Wednesday evenings. The July meeting was held earlier than usual as several members wanted to get home to watch a certain semi-final football match.

As always, the meeting, held in church, opened with a prayer and some short remarks from the vicar.

The first matter on the agenda was a proposed co-option of an additional PCC member. Mary Evans was voted on to the PCC unanimously.

Next was a long discussion about an initiative proposed by Chanctonbury Churches and Bishop Ruth for Steyning Grammar School under the Church of England's 'Flourish' project. Although we support the 'growing younger' theme of the project, there were serious concerns about how this would affect our own families and children's

programme and our existing links with SGS. The PCC decided that it could not endorse the move without more information about how it would work.

Beth was said to be settling in to the office manager role very well, but Mary Sawyer had decided, with regret, that she would not be able to continue as Penfold Hall keyholder, so we will seek volunteer assistance until another person can be appointed.

Tina, our treasurer, said that financially things are looking favourable, and the forecast suggests we are likely to break even at the end of the year, despite having to fund the tower repair. However, planned giving is about 4% down on expectations, so donors must be encouraged to help make up the shortfall. A pay rise was approved for our Families and Children's worker.

Regarding the tower, Pilbeam Contractors (who carried out the recent

Penfold Hall work) were awarded the contract, with an agreed start date in mid-September, subject only to clarification as to sharing of funding between the PCC and any contribution from the Friends. It may be necessary to dip temporarily into the building fund reserve. One of the unknowns is the new scheme for VAT relief on listed church repairs; this is far less generous than the previous scheme and disadvantaged areas are



Admission of churchwardens 2026: Kate Burnett (right) and Judie Thomson (centre) with Archdeacon Tom and Fr Mark. Left is Christine Tuson, churchwarden at Storrington, who was admitted at the same service at St John the Divine in Worthing.

likely to be prioritised, so we may get zero relief which could cost us well over £40,000 extra. The PCC's synod motion calling for a re-think on this VAT relief has been agreed by the Deanery Synod and we now have to see if it progresses further.

Things are moving ahead well with the additional footpath lighting, aided by the owner of Gatewick House. We will probably have to pay for a temporary closure of the footpath while the machinery is in use.

The important subject of safeguarding is a permanent agenda item; we are achieving more milestones on the 'Parish Dashboard', with no issues reported.

Things are going very well with our work with Steyning Primary School; Christian values are seen as very important in the school. Caryl Vine was re-appointed as a governor, and a future Music Group Eucharist (on 20 September) is to be held at the school rather than in church. Gary has a number of new initiatives, in church as well as at

the school, in the planning stage. Social media is proving a very effective form of communication – for example, a Facebook post about the church being open as a 'cool place' with water provided, during the heatwave, attracted over 40,000 views.

Our pastoral care ministry under Judie Thomson's direction continues to provide support, the monthly Grief Café proving particularly valuable. There will be a repeat 'Proper Preparation for Death' event on 23 September.

A number of new Lay Ministers of Communion are to receive training (with refresher training for the existing LMCs) in October, given by the Rector of Storrington, Fr Jonathan Swindells.

Fr Mark circulated a list of current house groups, showing a total of 43 members. Although some have reached capacity, others are able to welcome new people.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 September; the earlier start worked well so this will be tried again in the future.

Steyning Primary School

Steyning Primary School had two joyful services in the church to celebrate the end of the school year. First was the Thanksgiving service where the whole school joined. Every year contributed with their best memories, prayers or thanks. There were songs from each year and the school choir. Gary gave an interesting talk using his backpack and items within it to help us through the trials of everyday life. Fr Mark gave us tips on using the school's beliefs and values when we need support. It was a lovely occasion. We then had a Leaver's service for Year 6. There were heartfelt readings showing how grateful they all were for the wonderful years at Steyning Primary which have given them a great basis for their secondary schooling. Ms Masberry and Mrs Parkin spoke about how proud they were of the year 6 as a whole and how much they were going to miss them. Year 6 sang a song about leaving and moving on. There were many tears from students and staff alike.

Caryl Vine

Families and Children

Hello Everyone, it's summer holiday time. With the tempratures being high in June and July we are hoping for cooler weather during August to give everyone a little bit of rest.

As we talk about rest during the holidays we will be running our family fun holiday activities again this year. With last year's being so successful we will be running a painting party and some other great themed sessions. So do sign up to help or come along with your family.

If you can remember from my last magazine article I was invited to Lambeth Palace for recognition of our work with children and families. I was nominated with two other amazing people from our Diocese. As you can see, it was a lovely day and also a great privilege to meet Dame Sarah, the Archbishop of Canterbury.

STEYNING PARISH CHURCH
@ THE PENFOLD HALL

FAMILY FUN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

★  ★

10 - 12 NOON MONDAY 3RD AUGUST
PAINTING PARTY

10 - 12 NOON THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST
DINOSAUR THEME

10 - 12 NOON MONDAY 10TH AUGUST
PIRATE THEME

10 - 12 NOON THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST
MYTHICAL CREATURES THEME

ALL THESE EVENTS ARE RUN IN THE
PENFOLD HALL AND A SUGGESTED
DONATION OF £2 PER CHILD IS
RECOMENDED

If you need more information please email
families@steyningparishchurch.org
all activites are meant for family time together this is not a drop off
holiday club

 Steyning Parish Church
 Steyning Parish Church
 Steyningparishchurch.org



*Above: Gary and diocesan colleagues at
Lambeth Palace
Left: Meeting Archbishop Sarah*

Board Game Cafés

The afternoon board game café, run in partnership with the Community Wardens, is **open to anyone of any age**. This board game café runs once a month on the second Tuesday, 3:15pm to 5:15pm. The next session is 11 August.

The board game café evening edition will be back in September. We will be taking a break in August due to the bank holiday weekend.

Fire Pit Service

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, 9 August. Do come and join us; we would love to see you.

Little Stars

Our little stars group has been going really well and we have been seeing new faces joining the group. We will be taking some time off during summer.

We are still 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 had two lovely services to end the school year in the last week of term. We want to thank all the staff at Steyning Primary School for all their hard work and care for all the children over this academic year. We hope that you all have a chance to rest, and spend quality time with family and friends.

We look forward to the next academic year and working with you again.

Blessings, Gary

LITTLE Stars

THIS SUMMER'S DATES AND INFO

MONDAY 27TH JULY, NO SESSION

THURSDAY 30TH JULY, NO SESSION

MONDAY 3RD AUGUST, NO SESSION BUT WE ARE HOSTING FAMILY FUN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES 10AM - 12NOON

THURSDAY 6TH AUGUST, NO SESSION BUT WE ARE HOSTING FAMILY FUN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES 10AM - 12NOON

MONDAY 10TH AUGUST, NO SESSION BUT WE ARE HOSTING FAMILY FUN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES 10AM - 12NOON

THURSDAY 13TH AUGUST, NO SESSION BUT WE ARE HOSTING FAMILY FUN HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES 10AM - 12NOON

MONDAY 17TH AUGUST, NO SESSION

THURSDAY 20TH AUGUST, NO SESSION

FROM MONDAY 24TH AUGUST LITTLE STARS WILL RESUME AS NORMAL

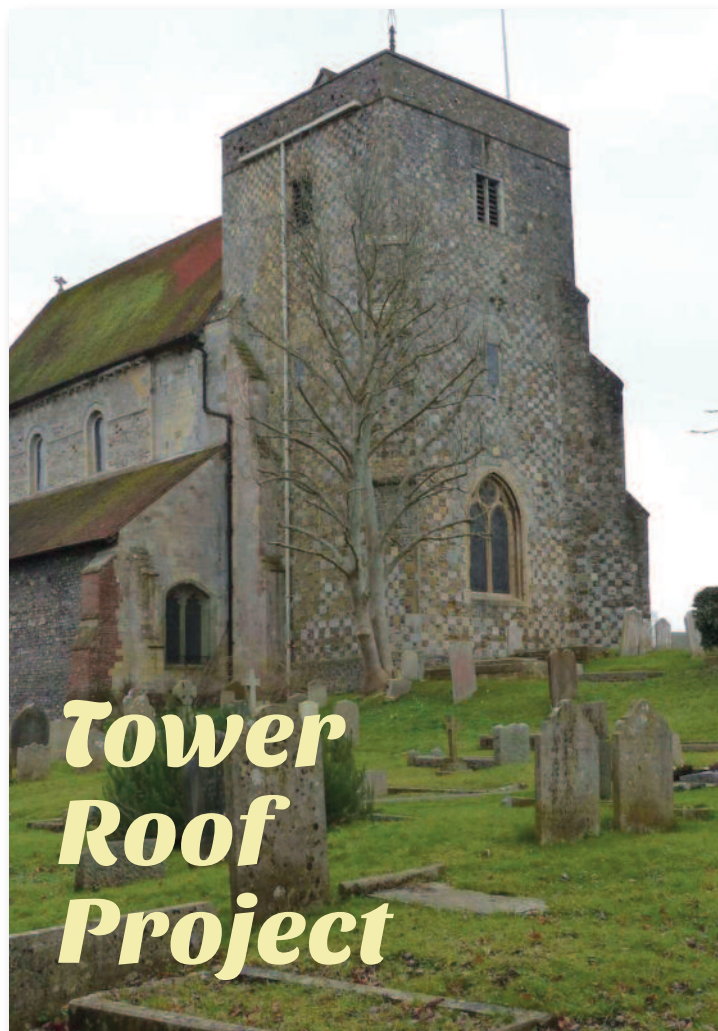
MONDAY 31ST AUGUST NO SESSION AS BANK HOLIDAY

Steyning Parish Church
Steyning Parish Church
steyningparishchurch.org

A Shout Out to All Knitters

Last year's angel drop at Christmas went down so well that we would love to do it again this year. So if you're a knitter or crocheter and can make angels for me we would love your help. The children, parents and staff loved seeing and receiving the angels. So if you can help I would truly appreciate your support.





We are pleased to announce progress on the long-anticipated Tower works contract. At the Parochial Church Council meeting on Wednesday 15 July the Fabric Committee made a recommendation to the PCC that Pilbeam Construction should be appointed with a suggested start date of 14 September, with completion programmed for mid December.

Pilbeam was our preferred contractor following a competitive tender process managed by our Architects. We have had a good experience with this contractor with their recent works to the Penfold Hall. We will provide regular updates in the church notices and our monthly magazine but meanwhile please direct any enquiries to the Fabric Committee.

Sarah Lavery

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.



**COME IN PLEASE, FOR A
COFFEE OR TEA AND A CHAT.
10-12 NOON IN THE PENFOLD
HALL WEDNESDAY MORNINGS**

Elizabeth Brown and the Coffee Team

Did you know?

We have large print copies of Orders of Service, Reading Sheets and Hymn Books available at the 9:30am Sunday service at St Andrew's & St Cuthman's. We can provide 'words only' versions of the music sheet containing the *Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus Dei* etc. And a hearing loop is available (switch your hearing aid to 'T')

Pastoral Care Team



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

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

Please don't hesitate to be in touch and feel free to email:

care@steyningparishchurch.org

or call 01903 813276.

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

Our next Grief Café is in the Penfold Hall on Friday 10 July 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 ALM,
Pastoral Care Co-ordinator*

Recipe – Lemon and blackberry cake

Ingredients

200g salted butter, softened, plus extra for the tin

200g caster sugar

4 eggs

150g self-raising flour (plus 2 tbsp)

50g ground almonds

1 tsp baking powder

2 lemons, zested and juiced, plus extra zest to decorate

2 tbsp whole milk

200g blackberries, plus extra to serve

150g icing sugar

Method

Step 1: Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Butter and line a 20cm square or round cake tin with baking paper. Whisk together the sugar and butter until pale and creamy, then add the eggs one at a time, beating well in between each addition.

Step 2: Fold in the flour, almonds, baking powder and lemon zest, and mix until it becomes a uniform batter. Fold in the milk to loosen the batter slightly. Toss



the blackberries with the 2 tbsp of flour to coat, then fold into the batter. Scrape into the tin and smooth over the top.

Step 3: Bake for 50 mins to 1 hr or until golden, well risen, and a skewer comes out clean when inserted into the middle. Leave to cool on a wire rack. Mix the icing sugar with enough of the lemon juice to get a drizzling consistency. Drizzle over the cake to serve, with more blackberries and lemon zest.

The View from Palestine



Image: Ash Hayes on Unsplash

We were blessed to be able to welcome Fr Fadi Diab to Steyning over the weekend of 4 and 5 July. Readers of the June and July magazines will be aware that Fr Fadi is Rector of St Andrew's in Ramallah and St Peter's in Birzeit, in the occupied West Bank in the Holy Land.

Fr Fadi spoke first to a small group hosted by Sarah Leigh at her home on the afternoon of 4 July, where we were pleased to welcome Sir Vincent Fean, former Consul General to Jerusalem, a strong supporter of the peace campaign.

This was followed by a well-attended public meeting at the Steyning Centre that evening. Fr Fadi told us about the troubles faced by our fellow Christians and others, whose movements are very tightly controlled. The whole area is surrounded by the wall (see picture

above) with numerous checkpoints severely restricting access and mobility. The situation is akin to being in a prison.

According to Fr Fadi, people find it difficult to travel to the towns and cities for work and other vital purposes, so they move to the towns, leaving the rural areas unoccupied, only for their property to be taken over by Israeli settlers.

Fr Fadi said that the settlers use violence against his people, and cause havoc in Palestinian society. The settlers are being supported and encouraged by Ministers and by the Netanyahu government, he said. Speaking to the Church Times from Steyning, Fr Fadi said: "This is not as people like to describe it – as incidents here and there. No, this is a structural violence against the Palestinian community, pressuring them to leave, and that is the danger of

these attacks, including attacks on Christians.”

Fr Fadi is insistent that the Palestinian Christians have no desire to fight; they want to live in peace alongside their Muslim and Jewish neighbours.

His views are echoed by Sir Vincent Fean: “Fr Fadi Diab speaks for his Christian community in the State of Palestine; for every Palestinian under military occupation – oppression – and for the human dignity of us all. His message is piercingly direct: people of good will need to generate government action now to end the 1967 occupation peacefully. Palestinians are at breaking point. 20% of the 50,000 Christians living in the [West Bank] have left in the last three years. If nothing changes, more will leave; the churches will have no parishioners. This exodus is forced, not voluntary: the people want to stay where they were born. But the Israeli government want the land without its native people. Until there are consequences for their systematic pressure on Palestinians to leave, more and more will go.”

Fr Fadi decries the actions of Hamas terrorists in the 7 October 2023 raids, which were in response to decades of Israeli occupation, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank. The Hamas action resulted in over 1,200 Israeli deaths as well as 251 people abducted and taken hostage.

This was wholly unacceptable in itself, but the Friends of the Holy Land, one of the organisations represented by Fr Fadi, regards the retaliation by Israeli forces as far worse and out of all

proportion. Over 70,000 Palestinians, mostly civilians, are estimated to have been killed in the current conflict. In fact Fr Fadi emphasised that ‘conflict’ is not the right word to use in this context. It implies a two-sided war, between two military powers, rather than armed forces against mostly unarmed civilians.

In his interview for the *Church Times* for 7 July, Fr Fadi said that there were now five million Palestinians under occupation in Gaza and the West Bank, and that “occupation needs to end.” He continued: “It’s as simple as that, and that is the ethical and moral responsibility of countries like the UK, to work towards ending that occupation, and, because of the UK’s historical role, I think it has to play a particular role in ending that occupation of the Palestinian people.”

Fr Fadi has visited the UK and other Western countries on numerous occasions, looking for support from fellow Christian organisations, and to put the case for peace to those in office. This time he was able to meet Andy Burnham. Too many nations seem indifferent to their plight, many even appearing complicit in the Israeli government actions.

He outlined his hopes for the upcoming General Synod, that the C of E would stand up against what he repeatedly and unhesitatingly refers to as ‘genocide’.

He said: “Since 7 October, the Church has not vocally and practically made really strong statements or actions to stop the subjugation and oppression and exploitation of the Palestinian community. I also hope that the Church

would write and pressure the 20 governments, and in this case the British Government, to take practical measures to put pressure on the Israeli government to comply with international law, and with the international community's wish of a two-state solution."

Many Jews, particularly those living outside Israel, are strongly opposed to the actions of the Israeli government and the desire of the settlers to reclaim sole occupation of the Holy Land. The desire of the senior Anglican clergy to promote peace is evident from several C of E bishops visiting the Holy Land, including the Archbishop of York at the end of 2025, and Archbishop Sarah Mullally visiting Fr Fadi and other Palestinian Christian clergy last June.

Fr Fadi proved to us to be an eloquent, passionate and humble advocate for his Christian communities. He took part in the 9:30 Eucharist at Steyning, being interviewed by our Christine Aubrey, giving the blessing in Arabic, and taking part in a Q&A session after the service.

Before arriving in Steyning, Fr Fadi had addressed the Methodist Conference where he presented the document *Kairos II, a Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide*, of which he was a co-author. *Kairos II* is a follow-up to an earlier, 2009, account of the effect on Palestinian Christians of the occupation. *Kairos II* responds to the events following 7 October.

From Steyning Fr Fadi travelled, via St Albans Cathedral, to York, where he

attended the General Synod of the Church of England. There, he spoke in support of a motion by the diocesan synod of Carlisle encouraging the Church to show support and solidarity with Palestinian Christians. The motion had been waiting a long time in the queue for debate at General Synod, having originally been passed in Carlisle in 2021.

Synod voted, convincingly, to 'hear' the *Kairos II* document (amended from the motion's original wording to 'receive' it). But the decision seems likely to pave the way for closer ties with the Palestinian Christian community, particularly from Steyning.

Fr Fadi's pleas to the Synod were met with opposition from the Chief Rabbi, Sir

Ephraim Mirvis, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews, who felt that this recognition by the C of E would undermine

fragile Jewish-Christian relations. In other words, they felt that *Kairos II* should be rejected by the Synod.

Our next step here in Steyning is to consider ways in which we can support Fr Fadi and his Palestinian colleagues.

All credit for arranging this momentous visit, and raising the profile of our parish as a true, outward-reaching Christian group, must go to Catherine Berry, who had been involved with Fr Fadi at a previous church, and Roger Williamson, whose diplomatic experience (and help with this article) proved invaluable. The consistent support of Fr Mark, Christine Aubrey, Sarah Leigh and our volunteer helpers was much appreciated.

‘Hearing’ the plight of the Palestinian Christian Community

Prayers for All Time

Dear Father,

In the face of conflict, grant us peace.
Peace in the world, peace in our hearts
Dear Lord, grant us peace.

Dear Father,

In a world beset by ignorance and folly,
grant us wisdom. Wisdom in our leaders,
wisdom in our homes.
Dear Lord, grant us wisdom.

Dear Father,

Where there is pain and loss, grant us
healing. Healing in our relationships,
healing in our souls.
Dear Lord, grant us healing.

Dear Father,

In a busy, fast-paced world, grant us
patience. Patience with each other,
patience with ourselves.
Dear Lord, grant us patience.

Dear Father,

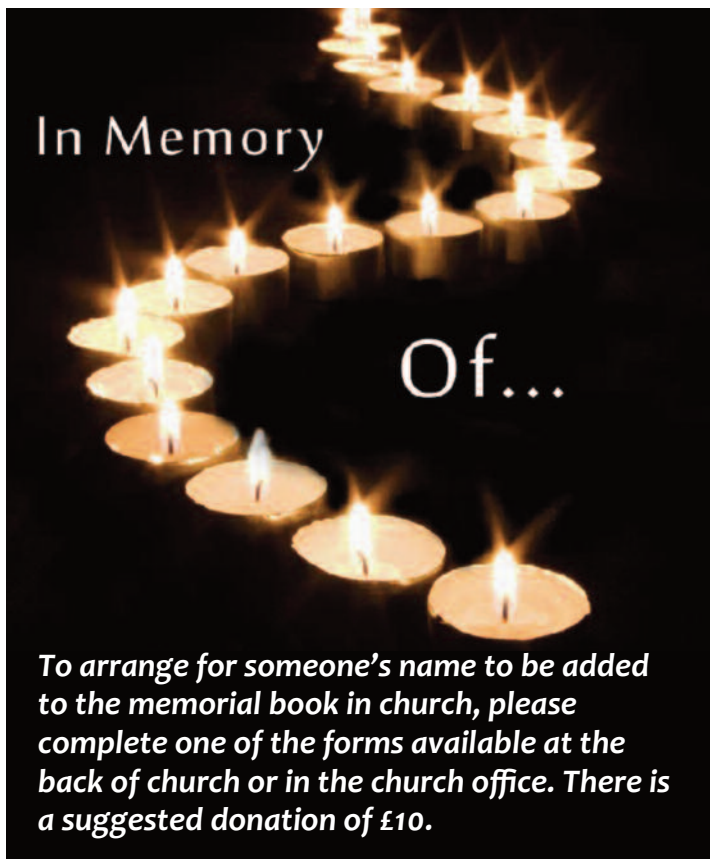
Where sorrow and despair threaten,
grant us joy. Joy in our achievements
and those of others, joy in the ordinary
happenings of everyday life, the joy of
forgiveness, the joy of gratitude, the joy
of innocence.
Dear Lord, grant us joy.

Dear Father,

Where doubt exists, grant us true
knowledge and experience of your all-
encompassing love, that we in turn may
fully love other people, love nature, love
the fabric of the planet, love the entirety
of your creation, help us to love life
itself.
Dear Lord, grant us your love.
Amen.

Larry Culliford

*(Prayers written by Larry for the
intercessions on Sunday 28 June)*



Church Flowers for August

1 August	Kate Williams
8 and 15 August	Julia Elliott
22 and 29 August	Lindsay Sharrier & Kate Fitzpatrick





Family Camp 2026

Image: Diocese of Chichester

Around 100 people from across the Diocese joined our own Music Group and Gary, our Families and Children's worker, at Stedham Campsite near Midhurst in June for a joy-filled weekend of worship, fun and fellowship.

This year's theme, 'Kingdom Calling', drew on St Matthew's gospel to explore calling, teaching, healing and sending out – brought to life through creative activities, engaging teaching and sacramental worship. It was a chance for families to step away from the busyness of everyday life, worship together, build friendships, and explore together what it means to follow Jesus as a family.

Alongside the teaching sessions, there was plenty of good old-fashioned camp fun: campfires and toasted marshmallows, outdoor games, crafts, and shared meals – all set against the backdrop of the South Downs National Park. For children, it was a weekend of adventure and new friends; for parents and carers, a rare opportunity to deepen their own faith, connect with others, and feel part of a wider diocesan family.

Reflecting on the weekend, Bishop Will Hazelwood, Bishop of Lewes and Acting Bishop of Chichester said: "One of the greatest joys of Family Camp is seeing families from across our diocese come together to encounter God, share their faith and simply enjoy being family together in such a beautiful setting. It is wonderful to see children, parents and grandparents worshipping side by side, making new friends and enduring memories. Throughout the weekend, there was a real sense of welcome and belonging, and families left feeling refreshed, encouraged and excited to continue growing in faith together."

And some quotes from members of the 2026 family camp:

"It was so encouraging to spend a weekend with other families who share our faith. We arrived as strangers and left feeling part of a much bigger family."

"We had the most amazing time and really miss being there in the field with everyone, thank you so much for organising such a wonderful weekend, filled and fuelled by God"

“Before we left the campsite my son made me promise to come back next year!”

“Family Camp gave us the time and space to slow down, pray together and talk about God without the usual distractions of everyday life. We all came home feeling spiritually refreshed.”

“There was something for everyone. The children loved every minute of it, and as parents we loved seeing them grow in confidence while making memories together as a family.”

“It was wonderful to worship alongside other families. Seeing our children singing, praying and learning with other families was incredibly special.”

“We met some wonderful people and came away feeling supported and encouraged.”

“This was our first Family Camp and we weren't quite sure what to expect. We were welcomed from the moment we arrived, and we'll definitely be back next year.”

“Our children made new friends and so did we.”

“The weekend was excellent, meaningful family time”

The first Family Camp was in 2025 – a weekend gathering for families from across the Diocese of Chichester – bringing together families of all ages, and at every stage of faith, for a weekend that combines worship, teaching and prayer with outdoor adventure, games and time together away from the busyness of everyday life. Family Camp is open to families who are established in their faith, exploring Christianity for the first time, or simply

looking for a place to belong. It offers a relaxed and welcoming environment in which to connect with God and with other families from across the Diocese.

Each year's programme is built around a central theme, explored through a mixture of interactive sessions, worship, prayer and conversation, alongside plenty of time for family fun: campfires, outdoor games, crafts and shared meals. This year, the theme unfolded across the three days:

- **Friday – Calling:** Families reflected on God's call to each of us, and how God speaks into our lives and draws us into relationship with him.
- **Saturday – Teaching and Healing:** The focus turned to growing as disciples through learning, teaching and community. Saturday evening's worship included, for those who wished to participate, the healing ministries of anointing, the laying on of hands, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
- **Sunday – Sending Out:** The weekend closed with a celebration of being sent out to live and share God's love in homes, schools, workplaces and neighbourhoods.

Alongside the teaching and worship, families enjoyed outdoor games, crafts, campfires and shared meals, with plenty of opportunity simply to spend time together and to build new friendships with families from across the Diocese. Family Camp offers a joyful blend of quality family time, fun, friendship and faith with planning for Family Camp 2027 already underway. Gary will have plenty of information as plans unfold.

(From a Chichester Diocese news release)

Chalk Reef Jester – the Tompot Blenny



Tompot Blenny © Paul Naylor

When it comes to engaging people with our natural world, the marine environment can be one of the more challenging stories to sell. Our oceans provide thriving biodiverse ecosystems and play host to the fascinating lives of some of the most weird and wonderful creatures and organisms on earth. But, for most of us, we can't see it.

We, as mammals, like things with a face. We like a good story, characters with big personalities. We like cute. Enter the Tompot Blenny.

A regular acquaintance of divers, Tompot Blennies have made a name for themselves as a bit of a comedian; a jester of the reef. With antler-like orange tentacles, big eyes and a curious, feisty attitude, this fish doesn't blend into the background.

Their sassy attitude comes from their territorial nature. As crevice dwelling fish, Tompot Blennies can be found on guard in holes in rocky reefs. Here, the males will spruce up the place, hoicking out mud and silt, and await passing females. If the hidey-hole meets her standards, she will lay her eggs, which



Tompot Blenny face © Paul Naylor

the male then fertilises and guards for a month or more, before the young hatch and float off to live their best fishy lives. Job done.

But the drama ensues with interloping males who try to fertilise the eggs behind the homeowner's back. The females also keep their options open by laying eggs with several different hosts. With farce a-fin, it's understandable that the males might like to keep an eye on who's passing by, hence their penchant for investigating divers.

You might be lucky enough to see the Tompot's smaller cousin, the Common Blenny (or 'Shanny') in rockpools, and may be luckier still to see a Tompot Blenny at the bottom of the shore at low tide, but mostly they inhabit shallow rocky reefs.

That towering Sussex chalk we're used to associating with cliff and grassland extends under the seabed, creating chalk reefs, a nationally scarce



Tompot Blenny guarding eggs © Paul Naylor

habitat. Teeming with biodiversity, the chalk provides the vital bedrock that Tompot Blennies and many other species rely on for shelter and food.

With this bustling ecosystem just out of sight, we need charismatic species like the Tompot Blenny to welcome us into their underwater world; a fish to hook us, so we might just consider being a little more curious ourselves.

Kerry Williams: Communications Officer – Conservation, Sussex Wildlife Trust

Hands in Harmony

On 21 June, while the Music Group was away at the Family Camp, Brian Sawyer swapped his organ bench for the piano to accompany our worship songs. At the end, instead of the normal organ voluntary, Brian was joined by Marion for a piano duet, Grieg's Norwegian Dance No 2, which was rapturously received. Pat Edwards' picture of them practising shows the concentration required for this challenging piece.



STEYNING PARISH CHURCH - Services for August

Every Sunday

- 8am Holy Communion Service (traditional language)
- 9:30am Sung Eucharist each Sunday , except on Sunday 16 August: a simpler communion service, for all ages (August is when choir and music group take holidays).
- 6pm Evening service:
- First Sunday (2 August): Reflections, a quiet, peaceful evening service, entitled 'Gathering up the Pieces'
- Second Sunday (9 August) Firepit service (outside by the tower, in the porch if wet)
- Second and Third Sunday, 9 and 16 August: said BCP / 1662 Evening Prayer service (no Choral Evensong - choir holidays)
- Fourth Sunday (23 August) Taizé service

Every Wednesday

- 11:30am Said Holy Communion (Common Worship)
(Last Wednesday of the month; with prayers for healing)

ST JAMES'S, ASHURST - Services for August

Sundays

- 11am First Sunday (2 August) Zoom Matins
- 10:30am Second Sunday (9 August) Family Lammas-tide Eucharist
Fourth Sunday (23 August) Holy Communion
(traditional language)

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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Office Manager: Beth O'Connor

Parish Office opening days will be reduced during the summer break
because of staff absences