

KEYNOTES



April 2023

£1.00

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST PETER'S, WEST BLATCHINGTON**

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The Rectory
23 Windmill Close
Hove, BN3 7LJ
Tel : 01273 270427
Email: rector.westblatchington@gmail.com

Thursday is ordinarily the Rector's rest day; however please do not hesitate to contact him in the event of a pastoral emergency. Please refer all other urgent matters to the Churchwardens.

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Email: westblatchingtoncurate@outlook.com

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 David Keeling **Tel: 501504**

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Sick Visiting **Carol Gander** **Tel: 555414**

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PARISH EVENTS DIARY

The following events taking place in April and May as notified are:

Friday 21st April - Free lunchtime concert - 1.10pm
The Boat Band

The weekend of the 6th/7th May - King's Coronation shown on the big screen plus other events yet to be confirmed

Sunday 14th May - Rogation Sunday - 2pm - Parish Boundary walk followed by ice cream in Hove Park

Saturday 20th May - Free lunchtime concert - 1.10pm
Michele Scopes, violin and Abigail Wilsher, piano

Please continue to keep me informed of events that you have planned or know about by sending a message to our email address which is stpetersadmin@zoho.com

The deadline for the May 2023 issue is
13th April



EDITORIAL

Welcome to our April edition of Keynotes.

We hope that you have been having a time of reflection this Lent and look forward to celebrating Easter. April is a very busy month in the lead up to Easter. Holy Week activities begin with our Palm Sunday service on 2nd April and culminate with Easter day celebrations on 9th April. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7.30pm on 6th April. We will have all Age worship followed by Hot Cross Buns and then noon hour meditation on Good Friday. On Easter Sunday there will be a service at 6.15am and the All Age Eucharist at 10am.

Other events this month include a free lunchtime concert by The Boat Band on April 21st at 1.10pm and refreshments are provided. Prayer Together takes places at 7.45pm on Wednesday 5th April. There's also 'St Peter's at 4' on the first Sunday of the month, 2nd April 4pm, with all-age craft, worship and fun.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) is due to take place on 23 April after the 10am Service so we need to ensure that we have as many of our regular congregation on the parish electoral roll as possible. Anyone who is a subscriber to Keynotes should also be on the roll. Make sure you are in a position to vote at the APCM. If you need a form, you can contact Pam Miles, the Electoral Roll Secretary, telephone number 552744. The number of people we have on the Electoral Roll determines the number of representatives we can have on the Deanery Synod so a strong Electoral Roll gives us a larger say.

Finally, we continue to pray for a new member to join the Keynotes editorial committee. Please speak with Mandy or Michael Evans if it's something you might be interested in.

Editorial Committee

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WOMEN'S SOCIAL

Members enjoyed a coffee morning at Carol's home on the 23rd February and on the 9th March we held our Annual General Meeting in Church. On the 16th March we are visiting Haskins Garden Centre, Littlehampton and then going to the Chalk Garden at Highdown. In April we look forward to coffee mornings at Maggie K's and Jane C's.

Birthdays being celebrated in April are Rosemary(5th), Daphne Porteous and Beryl (22nd) and Sandy (25th). Many congratulations to you all.

Maggie Keeling

CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III

This important occasion takes place on Saturday, 6th May and we plan to show the event on the big screen in Church.

Details cannot be finalised yet as the programme for the day has yet to be announced.

However, we expect to show the main event and provide refreshments. Further details will be announced as and when we are able.

Nearer the time we will issue tickets as we will need a good indication of numbers for catering purposes. So for now, please make a note in your diaries and look out for further announcements.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE A FINAL GIFT TO THE CHURCH WHEN YOU DIE?

If the answer to that question is Yes, then please consider making a change to your will, as you can only leave money on your death to a charity, like the Church, by making a will.

Depending on how much you wish to give, you could do this by leaving a fixed sum of money or a share of your estate. If you have already made your will and in all other respects it continues to reflect your wishes, you can amend it to make a gift to the Church by way of a codicil. A codicil is a supplement to your will and both documents will be read together when the time comes. An example of a simple codicil merely adding to the gifts in your will the gift of a fixed sum of money to the Church is set out below. You could copy this out, filling in the blanks, and provided you then sign it in the presence of two witnesses, being adults who are not related to you, and keep it with your will that would be sufficient.

If you wanted to do something more complicated, such as leaving the Church a percentage share of your estate, or make other changes to your will, or even make a will for the first time, you ought to enlist the assistance of a suitably qualified expert, such as a solicitor. There will be a cost but when you consider the value of what is at stake you may consider it worthwhile to avoid the risk of any mistakes in the drafting and signing process.

Please have a word with Jonathan Cooke if you would like to talk about this.

EXAMPLE OF CODICIL

I (*your full names*) of (*your address*) declare this to be a codicil to my last will dated (*date of your will*)

1. In addition to the gifts stated in my said will I give (free of tax) the sum of £(*amount of your gift*) to the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church West Blatchington Hove for the general purposes of the said Church
2. The receipt of the treasurer for the time being of the said Parochial Church Council shall be an effective discharge to my executors

3. In all other respects I confirm my said will

In witness whereof I have set my hand the day of 2023

Signed by the said
(*your full names*)
in our joint presence
and then by us in his/hers

Witness 1

Witness 2

Signature Signature

Full names Full names

Address Address

.....

.....

.....

.....



Keynotes Around the World

With Summer holidays fast approaching, we thought, just for a bit of fun, we could publish some photos each month of you on holiday reading Keynotes. Please send them to Mandy by WhatsApp 07900 545888 or email on mandycgander@icloud.com. Please send them together with some information about where the photo was taken and who you are with.

Thank you.



Our Charity for April

What is Cry in the Dark?

In 1998, Steve Cooper and three friends heard about children living in dire circumstances at Doftena orphanage in Bacau, Northeast Romania and went to see how they could help. They found 26 children in appalling conditions, suffering from malnutrition and neglect. Most had serious illnesses or disabilities. Their plight moved Steve's compassion into action and the charity Cry in the Dark was born.

Romanian local authorities re-located the children to a hospital, but conditions there were worse. So Cry in the Dark worked hard to urgently raise funds, build a home and find staff. Two years later 24 children moved to Casa Lumina (House of Light) – their new home-for-life.

Their charity work in Romania continues, with many supporting them through sponsorship and fundraising. Their volunteering opportunities, including Christian volunteering, allow them to carry on spreading hope and life throughout the communities they work with.

Their Vision

Their vision is to put Christian love and compassion into action by reaching out to children and young people of any race, creed or faith who are marginalised by poverty, sickness or disability.

There is a donation box at the back of Church or you can donate online using 'Charity' as the reference.

Please support them if you can.

Karaoke – Sing-A-Long on Saturday 25th February 2023

I'd like to thank Erica & Lili Casula, Rev. Tim Gage, and Alan Skinner, for helping us set up the Karaoke evening in the Community Centre.

We arrived at 5.30 pm and put the pizzas into the oven for our supper, and started to put out tables and chairs and hang up the gold tinsel curtain. Alan Skinner arrived to put out table banqueting cloth and table lights. He also had some fabulous disco lights that made the whole room, especially the gold curtain really dance. The cardboard figures were great fun, of Elvis, Robbie Williams and Gary Barlow. Rev. Tim Gage joined us to set up the Screen and the laptop, but it was the work done in advance adding all those Karaoke songs to the Party play list by Erica and Lili Casula, that really made the evening go with a swing.



If you like to sing along with ABBA, Queen, the Carpenters, Bon Jovi, Wham, Tom Jones, Tina Turner, Dolly Parton and songs from Musicals, then you would have loved it, and in fact 21 ladies and a

couple of boys had an absolutely fabulous evening. We all brought our own drinks and nibbles, and 6 of us dressed up and there were prizes for the best dressed adult, Francesca Taylor who won a bottle of M&S light up Spiced Sugar Plum Gin Liqueur, came as Ginger Spice in that union jack dress, and Sam Gage came as the best dressed young man and won a box of maltesers. There were 3 microphones and those brave enough came up to the laptop, while everyone else sat at their tables and sang their hearts out to their favourite songs.



Not everyone's cup of tea, but for those ladies whose hearts belong to Musical theatre, it was such fun and 3 hours went by very quickly and I can confidently say on behalf of the Aldrington Mums that a good time was had by one and all. Thanks for coming and even raising £84 for St.Peter's Church funds.

Zanita

The Spiritual Disciplines: Confession

This month we are looking at the practice of confession. 'If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.' (1 John 1:9). Confession enables us to enter fully into God's grace, as we are assured of forgiveness for our sin and shame.

It is the death and resurrection of Jesus that makes this a reality. On the cross he bore our sin in himself to put us right with God: 'God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.' (2 Cor. 5:21).

In 'Celebration of Discipline', Richard Foster describes three aspects of confession:

Be Specific: It's easy to say, 'God, please forgive me because I sinned today,' rather than being specific, 'God, I spoke angrily today... please forgive me.'

Be Sorrowful: Confession is not primarily about feelings about sin, but having a deep regret at having offended the Father's heart.

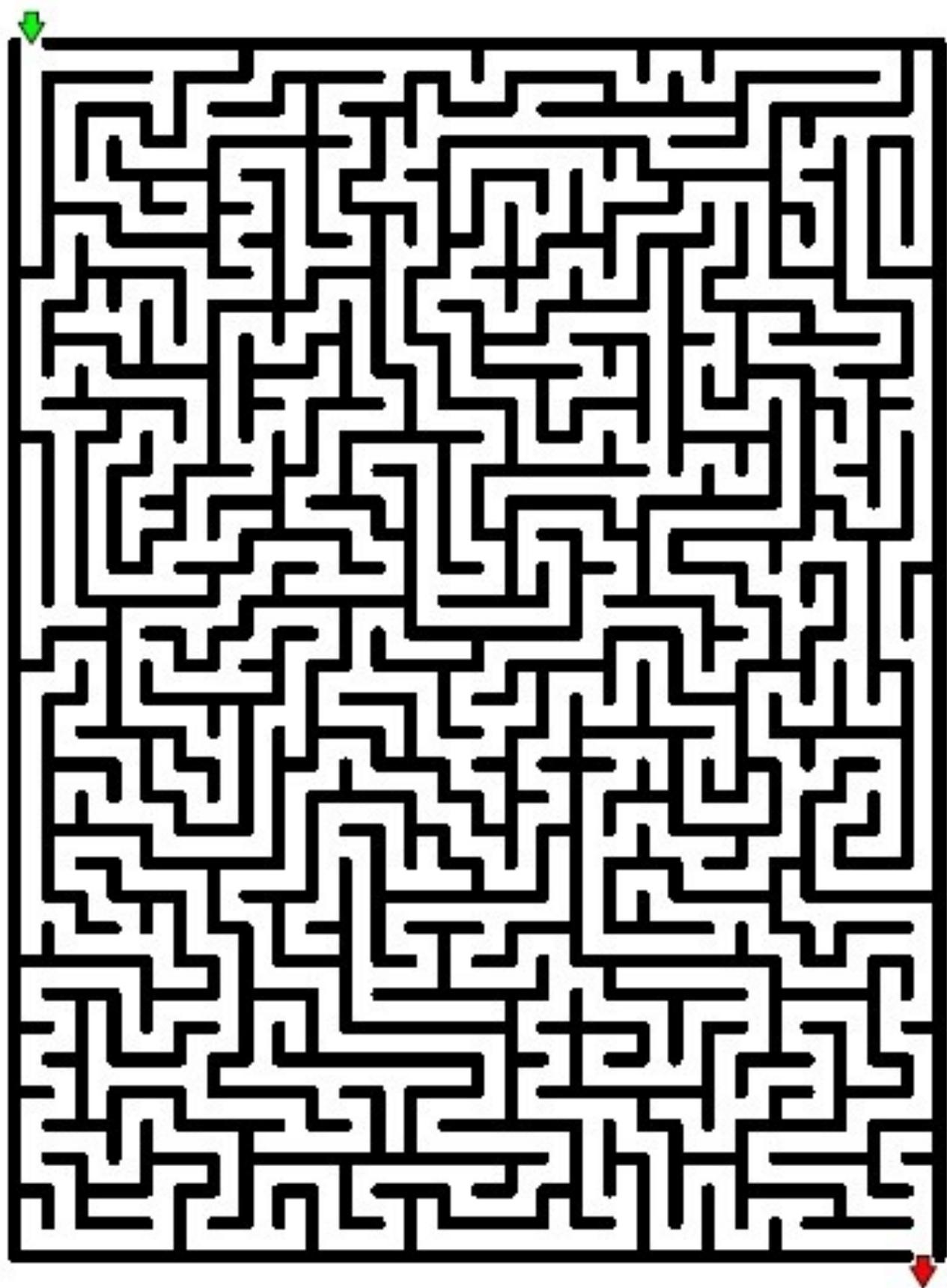
Be Determined to Avoid Sin: Confession gives us a yearning for a holy life and avoiding sin. It is the will to be delivered from sin that we seek. This is a gift, as it can only be done in God's strength, not ours.

Some practical tips: Make confession part of our regular prayer time, using the pattern ACTS (Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication).

Reflect on what you need to confess, asking God to speak into the situation and then pray with a trusted friend.

Write down those things that are making you feel guilty, pray and then tear the paper up into pieces. This is a physical reminder of the sin being taken away.

'At the heart of God is the desire to give and to forgive.' (Richard Foster)



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Baptism

The first Sunday of this year's Lent was very special for my family. Both of my children were baptised by the Reverend Tim Gage, who made the event exceptional and relaxed. As a confirmed Roman Catholic, I joined my children in marking the day and we were all officially welcomed into the family of St Peter's church to enable us to worship together as family in such friendly and supportive environment.

Ivana



Prayer List Requests

Each Sunday we pray for people in any kind of need.

These may be the names of people on the prayer list which is printed in the Pew Sheet each week. The names are not read out individually during Sunday Intercessions, but are prayed for individually at the monthly Wednesday Prayer Service.

This is a lovely, peaceful, prayerful time in The Old Church. Please join us.

The Prayer Together Services are always on the first Wednesday of each month.



St Peter's Pastoral Care Group

Our Pastoral Care Group exists to offer entirely confidential help and support on any pastoral matter.

Perhaps you would like a friendly visitor for a good chat now and then, help with transport, a name included in our prayer list at Church, some professional advice which we can help find, or an offer of Communion at home?

Please contact, in the first instance, Carol Gander on 01273 555414.

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In January Rev. Jan spent time with the Mission to Seafarers' chaplain in the Port of Rotterdam. He wrote this as a reflection of the conversations he had with seafarers on board ship.

The Seafarer's Lament

On cold, hard decks I toil through wind and heat and isolation
Eighteen other souls aboard.

We are alone together, humanity is lost at sea
For quick, efficient delivery of must-have goods.
In containers as big as apartments.

I am one of five—father to three girls, husband to one wife
Distant hearts of my own heart
Only chaplaincy SIM cards and merciful WIFI captains
Let me connect, briefly, sporadically, desperately
Their goodbyes leave me, an empty container vessel.

Windowless, joyless, often six-hour shifts
With perhaps just four hours off to sleep
And eat too fast the only canteen choice.
I dream.

Of a tanker brimming with my darling's Kare-Kare.

Three work months down, six or seven left.
At last. Four flights to Manila, a day to my village.
To gobble up sixty too-fast family days and Kare-Kare.
Five times my land-based wages;
A financial bulk carries me back to sea.

I leave myself, my soul with them.
On board I steel myself, abandon flesh and joy and hope
Am carried on a Godless, lonely ocean, serving man
Mostly forgotten. But then, a chaplain
Visits, listens, prays with me; my heart swells, rejoices. Fellowship.

To learn more about the Mission to Seafarers visit
missiontoseafarers.org

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2023

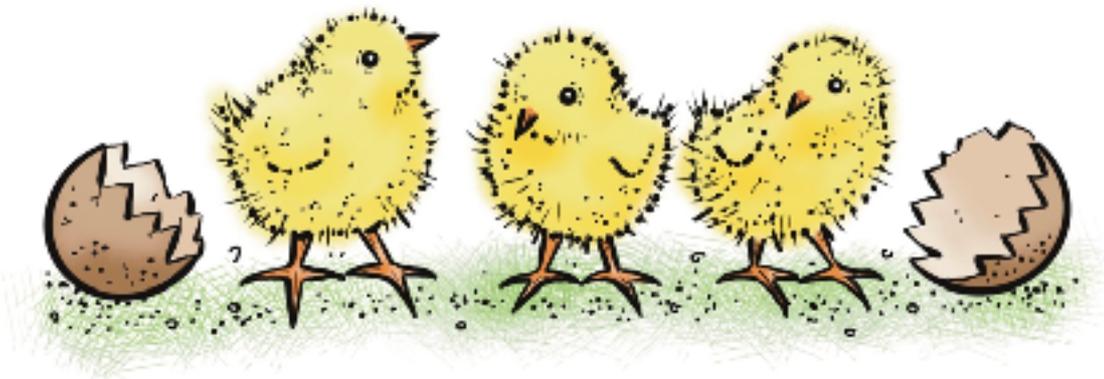
This year's service was held on 3rd March and the Hove Deanery service was in All Saints.

The service had been compiled by the women of Taiwan and was a simple service, highlighting the difficulties many Taiwanese women face every day.

We were led in music by Mary Lockyer on the piano.

In total there were about 60 people in attendance and from the feedback it was very well received. I was delighted to see so many members of St Peter's there. Thank you for your support.

Next year's service, compiled by the women of Palestine, will be held at Bishop Hannington Church on Friday, 1st March at 10.30.



Mark 8:31

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again.

Holy Week and Easter Services

April 6th

7.30pm bring and share Maundy Thursday service in the
Community Centre

April 7th

Good Friday all age worship 10am followed by Hot Cross Buns
Good Friday noon hour meditation at the cross

April 9th

Easter sunrise service 6.15am
Easter all age Eucharist 10am



You can do this at home, leading up to Easter!

Why not put a small cross in your front window as Lent draws to a close, and Easter Week approaches? You can use a Palm cross or a wooden one. A cross is a visible reminder of the death of Jesus, and the Christian meaning of Easter and Resurrection.

Psalm 22 – A Cry of Dereliction or of Triumph?

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”, the words of Jesus on the cross. Just because we tend to focus on the awful agony of this cruel form of execution we tend to look on this as a cry of dereliction, of failure. Perhaps one of complete helplessness?

So many of the words of this psalm appear in the Gospel narratives describing the crucifixion events. In quoting the psalm I will leave you to trace the same or similar words in the Gospels.

“all they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out their lips and shake their heads, saying, He trusted in God that he would deliver him, let him deliver him, if he will have him.”(vv7 & 8).

“They pierced my hands and my feet; I may tell all my bones: they stand staring and looking upon me” (v16)

“They part my garments among them : and cast lots upon my vesture.” (v18)

What we need to keep in mind is that Jesus is a Jew, an educated one who is regularly addressed as Rabbi and as such would know the psalm off by heart and be aware of its origin. This is one of David’s psalms which reflects his faith in God but also his feeling of being abandoned by God. The whole of the first half of the psalm, vv 1-21 is taken over by David’s agonised prayer. David is expressing in the first place his own experience of feeling abandoned by God. Here is the most intense suffering God’s servant can know—not just that enemies surround him (vv 7, 12–13) and that his body is in dreadful pain (vv14–16), but that he feels that God does not hear him and does not care about his suffering.

Does not this reflect often what we feel, rather like St John of the Cross with his “long dark night of the soul”. In a way, to know God’s presence we need to experience his absence.

Reverting to the opening verses of the psalm, in his extreme distress David never lost his faith, nor was without hope, he addresses God! In fact, as early as verses 4 & 5, David remembers God’s past faithfulness in Israel’s history: “In you our fathers trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them. To you they cried and were rescued; in you they trusted and were not put to shame.”

Then in the second part of the psalm, vv 22-32 David expresses his faith remembering God’s faithfulness in the past and during his life. In

fact, he goes on to extol God's work in future generations. The change of mood is dramatic. Agonized prayer turns to ardent praise. The psalmist comes to be filled with praise: "In the midst of the congregation will I praise thee" (v. 22). He calls on his brothers to join him in praise: "Ye who fear the LORD, praise him!" (v. 23).

This ardent praise is for the success of the cause of God. The failure that at the beginning of the psalm seemed certain is now swallowed up in victory. This success will not just be personal or individual but will be worldwide. The praise rests on the abundant promise: "All the ends of the earth shall remember themselves, and be turned unto the LORD, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before him. All such as be fat upon the earth have eaten and worshipped, (vv. 27 & 29). After suffering comes the glory of a worldwide kingdom.

David, in his dark night of the soul, had faith that God was with him, and went on to extol God's wider purpose, proclaiming it to his brethren.

We look at Jesus here in his humanity, suffering as we would. However, we must remember that as a Jew and as even more, one respected and addressed as Rabbi he would know the whole psalm off by heart. So in his agony he knew that God's objective was achieved. Perhaps a cry of Triumph? Certainly, that was summed up in his words, "It is finished".

I will finish with three verses from Charles Wesley's Hymn which, for me, sums up what Psalm 22 is about.

1 Love's redeeming work is done;
fought the fight, the battle won:
lo, our Sun's eclipse is o'er,
lo, he sets in blood no more.

3 Lives again our glorious King;
where, O death, is now thy sting?
dying once, he all doth save;
where thy victory, O grave?

5 Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Praise to thee by both be given:
thee we greet triumphant now;
hail, the Resurrection Thou!

William Holden

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats

Grey Squirrel by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

I'm crouching behind my sofa, hiding from a squirrel. While I'm here, peering angrily out of the patio window, it has given me time to reflect on the emotional journey that led me to this place.

There was a time I was nuts about squirrels. As soon as I could walk, I was out shrieking through the autumn leaves, trying to grab a squirrel's bushy tail as it nimbly skedaddled up the nearest Sycamore. Looking back now, I'm not sure what I planned to do with a squirrel, had I ever caught one. It's actually illegal to release a Grey Squirrel once caught because, despite their cute appearance, they can be extremely destructive.

The main problem is that they shouldn't really be in Britain. The Grey Squirrel is a North American species and we can blame Herbrand Russell, 11th Duke of Bedford, for inviting them. Herbrand's hare-brained plan was to import Grey Squirrels to embellish his estate at the start of the last century. Distributing squirrels as gifts, he and his landowner chums assisted their spread across England. Our wildlife and landscape just weren't designed to accommodate this brash new American and the native Red Squirrel, already in decline, was hit particularly hard. Attempts have been made over the years to control Britain's Grey Squirrel population and protect the remaining Reds, and the battle continues, but across most of England it seems the Greys are here to stay.

In the last few weeks the battle has arrived in my back garden. I recently purchased a bird feeding station, an elaborate chandelier draped in peanut feeders, fat balls and coconut shells. Yet the Nuthatches, tits and finches are being usurped by a Grey Squirrel. I'm paying pounds and getting peanuts and it's the squirrel who is packing his cheeks. It feels like I have laid on a buffet for my friends, only to find some American bloke (who I don't particularly like) has turned up to scoff the whole lot. For weeks, we have been locked in an ongoing arms race. I don't want to hurt him – I just want him off my new bird feeder. I've deployed Vaseline, peppers and counterbalances but each time I've been outwitted. He is agile,

acrobatic and very clever. Today I cracked. I purchased a squirrel proof baffle: a large Perspex dome, 100% guaranteed to make my peanut feeder impregnable. I installed it as the squirrel watched curiously and, with a confident laugh, I returned to my front room...to find the squirrel was already back on the peanut feeder. I have no idea how he's doing it and he's too smart to climb there if he's being watched. So here I am, behind the sofa, trying to find out his secret. Whether trying to beat them nationally or just in our own back gardens, it really isn't reassuring to know we're being outsmarted by a rodent.



People and Places of the Bible

Ish-Bosheth

Ishbosheth, also spelled **Isboseth**, also called **Ishbaal** or **Eshbaal**, (flourished 11th century BCE), the fourth son of King Saul and the last representative of his family to be king over Israel (the northern kingdom, as opposed to the southern kingdom of Judah). His name was originally Ishbaal (Esh-baal; 1 Chronicles 8:33 and 9:39), “Man of Baal.” *Baal*, which could mean “master,” was a title of dignity. Because the name came to be increasingly associated with Canaanite fertility gods, Hebrew editors later substituted *bosheth*, meaning “shame,” for *baal*.

According to 2 Samuel 2:8–4:12, after his father’s death, Ishbosheth was proclaimed king of Israel by Abner, Saul’s cousin and commander in chief, who then became the real power behind the throne. Judah, however, followed David, and war broke out between the two kingdoms. When Abner took Rizpah, one of Saul’s concubines, Ishbosheth objected because Abner’s action was a symbolic usurpation of power. Abner then attempted to defect to David but was killed by David’s general Joab for the murder of Joab’s brother. The loss of Abner weakened Ishbosheth’s reign, leaving the northern tribes without effective leadership. The civil war ended when Ishbosheth was murdered by two of his captains; David had the murderers put to death.

Although the Bible states that Ishbosheth was 40 years old when he became king and that his reign lasted two years, scholars have found that these figures are incorrect. More likely, he was quite young, and his reign equalled that of David’s reign at Hebron, about 7 and a half years. His youth is supported as he does not appear to have been involved in the fighting and therefore would be younger than 20, the age for military service. This would have made him about 20 when he began his reign.

Gilead

Gilead was a fertile, mountainous area east of the Jordan River. The name *Gilead* means “rocky region” or “hill country.” Solomon refers to goats “descending from Gilead” in Song of Solomon 6:5. To the north of Gilead was Bashan, and to the south were Moab and Ammon.

When the Promised Land was divided among the twelve tribes of Israel, the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh received territory to the east of the Jordan. Their inheritance was largely comprised of the land of Gilead (Joshua 13:24–31). Gad received “all the towns of Gilead” (verse 25), and, in some passages of Scripture, the terms *Gilead* and *Gad* are used interchangeably (see Judges 5:17). *Gilead* was also the name of a great-grandson of Joseph through Joseph’s son Manasseh. Generations later, the tribe of Manasseh inherited a portion of the land of Gilead.

The land of Gilead features in several incidents in the Old Testament. The city of Ramoth Gilead (meaning “heights of Gilead”) was a city of refuge (Joshua 20:8). The judge Jephthah lived and fought in Gilead, saving the Gileadites and all of Israel from the Ammonites (Judges 11). After King Saul’s death, the people of Gilead supported Ish-Bosheth as the heir to the throne (2 Samuel 2:9), but they later fully supported David. Absalom, David’s son who led a coup against his father, camped in Gilead (2 Samuel 17:24), and he died there (2 Samuel 18:6–15). Later, Ramoth in Gilead fell into Syrian hands, and King Ahab attempted to retake the city for Israel, dying in the attempt (1 Kings 22:1–36). King Jehoram later wrested the city from the Syrians, again making it a possession of Israel. One of Jehoram’s commanders, Jehu, was anointed as king of Israel in Ramoth (1 Kings 9:1–10). Finally, the Assyrian king Tiglath-Pileser invaded Gilead and deported the inhabitants (2 Kings 15:29).

The land of Gilead was known for its balm, a liquid rosin that flowed or dripped from certain trees such as pine, cedar, cypress, or terebinth. Gilead was most noted for the *Balsamodendron Gileadense*, a rosin-producing tree native to that area. Because of easy access to medicinal ingredients, many physicians made their homes in Gilead. This helps us understand Jeremiah 8:22, which says, “Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wound of my people?” Jeremiah mourned the desperate spiritual condition of Israel. They could cure physical ailments with their doctors and their medicines, but they could not cure the deeper disease of idolatry that was destroying them (Jeremiah 8:19; 46:11).

Although the land of Gilead provided healing for many ailments, it

could not provide the spiritual healing that comes only from obedience to God.

Compiled from various sources by William Holden



"Police? This is St Mary's Ladies' Knitting & Vigilante Circle. We've detained two gents trying to nick the church silver."

Small Donations Scheme

We have reintroduced the above scheme, or SDS, which ran very successfully up to several years ago. The idea is to give people the opportunity to make a donation towards the cost of items which are one-off purchases or materials which we use. These donations are not regular but are on an “as and when able” basis which may be something in which they are interested.

The next edition of Keynotes will then contain a “thank you” notice for the gift which can be anonymous or include the sponsor’s name.

Mandy has produced a list of items which may appeal to the congregation and any discussion can be held in confidence with her. This list includes the following;

Coffee	£	5.50
Printing the Easter Parish Newsletters	£	192.00
Cleaning materials	£	12.50
Keynotes/Pew sheet paper	£	49.90
Candle Oil	£	61.13
Monthly website fee	£	19.34
Altar Breads for communion	£	10.94
Monthly CAF Bank account fee	£	5.00

Thank you for your sponsorship

Our grateful thanks go to the couple who wishing to remain anonymous, very kindly donated £110 to pay for the new rugs for Tea & Tots and for some candle oil. Also to the couple who paid for the bacon sandwiches for Blue Jeans Saturday.

If you would like to make a donation to help with the funding of some of the items of expenditure in and around our Church then please contact Mandy Gander, our Treasurer.

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REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

SUNDAY

10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Sunday School (except for the first Sunday of the month)

1st Sunday of the month at 4.00 pm - St Peter's @ 4 family service

1st Wednesday of the month at 7.45 pm - Prayer Together

10.00 am Online service via Youtube
or via your telephone by dialling 01273 071150



The Rector is always available for spiritual counsel and healing prayer

**FRIDAYS AT ST PETER'S
St Peter's 'Open Church' drop-in**

**The First Friday of each month
10.30am – 12noon**

For coffee, conversation and companionship.

**We are open between 10.30am and 12 noon for you to
'drop-in' for a coffee, piece of cake and a chat.
A very warm welcome awaits you, so please do 'drop-in'
we'd love to see you.**



FREE PARKING

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Hove Park?**

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who can offer off road parking opposite Hove Park**

Tel: 01273 706482

Please telephone before coming



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR GARDEN?

- 1) Give your greenhouse a thorough scrub with hot soapy water. This will get rid of pests and diseases and let in more light.
- 2) Prepare beds for the growing season. Dig in a 5cm (or more) layer of compost or well rotted manure. You can also work in a general purpose fertiliser such as pelleted chicken manure or fish, blood and bone.
- 3) Check your patio plants are not drying out. Try mixing water storing granules with compost to improve water retention.
- 4) Lift and divide established border perennial plants now, like Hostas, to improve vigour and create new plants for your garden.
- 5) Pinch out the tips of Fuschia plants and Sweet Pea plant shoots to encourage bushy growth this summer.
- 6) Divide Primroses once they have finished flowering.
- 7) Tie in climbing Roses.
- 8) Prune your Penstemons now. Cut back all the old shoots to the base provided there is new growth at the bottom of the plant.
- 9) Finish cutting back any dead foliage on perennials and ornamental grass plants to make way for new growth.
- 10) Prune Forsythia as soon as they have finished flowering cutting back to strong young shoots.
- 11) Tie in new Honeysuckle and Clematis stems.

- 12) Deadhead Daffodils and Tulips as the flowers finish but leave foliage intact allowing it to die back naturally.
- 13) Top dress containers with fresh compost.
- 14) Keep on top of weeding.
- 15) Sow lawn seed now on well-prepared soil.
- 16) Aerate compacted areas of lawn by spiking it with a garden fork.
- 17) Apply a specialist lawn weed killer to your lawn whenever moss and weeds are a problem.
- 18) Mow your lawn as regularly as required.

Greenfingers





COME INTO MY KITCHEN.....

At the recent World Day of Prayer Service, the refreshments included these two recipes which seemed to be quite popular.

TAIWANESE HONEY CASTELLA SPONGE CAKE

8 eggs, separated
130g flour
130g unsalted butter
130g milk
2.5tbsp honey
1tbsp vanilla paste
130g caster sugar

Preheat the oven to 150C/130C fan/ Gas mark 2. Grease and line a deep square cake tin (about 9"/23cm) with baking parchment.

Put milk and butter into a pan and heat on low-medium until butter is fully melted.

Put the flour into a large bowl and slowly pour in the melted butter and milk mixture, while gently stirring.

When the mixture is warm (not hot) add the egg yolks one at a time and mix until fully combined.

Add the honey and vanilla paste and mix again.

In a separate bowl, beat the egg whites. Once bubbles are formed, add the sugar a little at a time. Keep beating until stiff peaks are formed.

Add two ladles of the egg white into the egg yolk mixture and gently fold in.

Gently fold in the rest of the egg white mixture until everything is combined.

Pour the mixture into the cake tin. Drop the tin to force out air bubbles.

For the best result, cook in a bain-marie (place the cake tin in a larger tin and add hot water until it reaches halfway up the side of the smaller tin). The cake will cook without the bain-marie, but the sides and bottom will brown in the process.

Bake for 60 minutes or until the top springs back when touched.

PINEAPPLE CAKE

FOR THE FILLING

1 fresh pineapple, cubed or 2 tins of cubed pineapple

4oz caster sugar

2tbsp honey

FOR THE DOUGH

8oz self raising flour

6oz unsalted butter

2oz caster sugar

2oz. custard powder

2 egg yolks

Dash of milk

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C fan/Gas mark 4).

Blend the pineapple in a blender.

Mix the blended pineapple with sugar and honey on a very low heat and set aside.

Cream the butter and sugar.

Sieve the flour and add gradually to the butter and sugar mixture, with the milk and custard powder.

Add the two egg yolks.

Mix together to form a stiff dough and put in the fridge for half an hour.

When chilled, roll out the dough and cut into large squares. Put a spoonful of the filling in the centre of each square. Fold the biscuit dough around the filling to seal and shape into squares, using square biscuit cutters. **(I found this process quite tricky so resorted to cutting out circles, putting a spoonful of mixture in the centre, and folding into a small pasty-shape.)**

Bake for 10-15 minutes. Turn over and return to the oven for a further 10 minutes, until golden brown.

Maggie



*The Parish Church of St. Peter
West Blatchington*

FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES

Our afternoon concert series continues with

The Boat Band

1.10 p.m. on Friday 21st April

The Recital is for approximately 40 minutes

Refreshments provided.

There is no admission charge, but donations to fund future concerts will be gratefully accepted.

All welcome!



Outside an Empty Tomb

“Oh woman, why this weeping?
Oh woman, dry your tears!
Oh woman, cease your weeping
And lay aside your fears!”

“They’ve borne away my Master!
And laid Him who knows where;
His tomb is standing empty,
And He’s no longer there.”

“Oh Sir, please will you tell me
Where you have laid Him now?
For you can surely tell me
What they have done, and how;

Yes how may I now find Him
And for His body care?
For I will truly care for Him
If you’ll but show me where?”

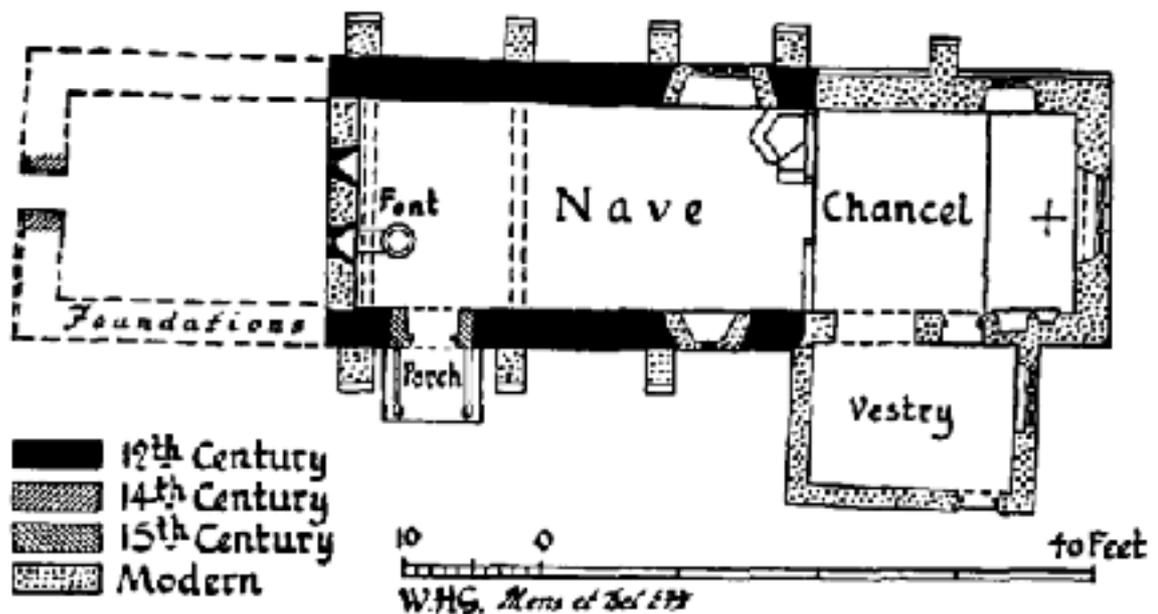
He said to her, “My Mary!”
She turned and met His eye
She cried with joy, “My Master!”
For she at last knew why

The tomb behind was empty
And why no body lay –
Her Master Christ is Risen
Upon this Easter Day!

(These verses are set to the tune ‘Down by the Salley Gardens’)

Memories of Times Past

The plan below dates from soon after the old church was restored in 1888. The area marked chancel is where the choir stalls were with the entrance being the smaller gap. The area with the cross marked is the sanctuary with the line across the old altar rail. The larger gap opened to where the organ was situated with the organist sitting with their back to the opening. It was accessed from the vestry. This sets the scene.



I have mentioned in previous articles the seats where the choir boys sat and I thought it useful to take a picture of one of the seats. This seat could accommodate 3 small boys and would have been on a plinth of 6 to 9 inches in height. Alongside this would be a smaller one which could take 1 or two boys. It would be located alongside this with a gap for access of adult choir and clergy.

If you too have any memories that still come to mind do send them into Mandy Gander.

William Holden



APRIL SEASONS, FESTIVALS & SAINTS DAYS

This year Easter is a little later as Palm Sunday falls on 2nd April so we will look at its significance as well as the Triduum.

Palm Sunday

The date of the first observance of Palm Sunday is uncertain. A detailed description of a palm processional celebration was recorded as early as the 4th century in Jerusalem. The ceremony was not introduced into the West until much later in the 9th century.

Today, Palm Sunday, or Passion Sunday as it is referred to in some Christian churches, is the sixth Sunday of Lent and the final Sunday before Easter. Worshippers commemorate Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

On this day, Christians also remember Christ's sacrificial death on the cross, praise God for the gift of salvation, and look expectantly to the Lord's second coming.

Many churches, including Lutheran, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Anglican, Eastern Orthodox, Moravian and Reformed traditions, distribute palm branches to the congregation on Palm Sunday for the customary observances. These observances include a reading of the account of Christ's entry into Jerusalem, the carrying and waving of palm branches in procession, the blessing of palms, the singing of traditional hymns, and the making of small crosses with palm fronds.

In some traditions, worshippers take home and display their palm branches near a cross or crucifix, or press them into their Bible until the next year's season of Lent. Some churches will place collection baskets to gather the old palm leaves to be burned on Shrove Tuesday of the following year and used in the next day's Ash Wednesday services.

Palm Sunday also marks the beginning of Holy Week, a solemn week focusing on the final days of Jesus' life. Holy Week culminates on Easter Sunday, the most important holiday in Christianity.

Triduum

The Easter Triduum begins on Holy Thursday with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, is continued through Good Friday with the celebration of the passion of the Lord on Holy Saturday, reaches its high point in the Easter vigil, and concludes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.

The Season of Lent ends on Thursday of Holy Week. Then the Church remembers the death and resurrection of Jesus during the Easter Triduum. These three days are the most important time of the Church year.

Mass of the Lord's Supper

On Holy Thursday we remember the Last Supper and that Jesus gave himself in the Eucharist. We recall that Jesus chose his apostles to serve and lead the Church. Remembering that Jesus washed their feet at the Last Supper, the priest washes the feet of members of the congregation. Holy Thursday is a special day for all priests since it is a day to mark the beginning of the ordained priesthood.

The evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday is a beautiful and joyful celebration. During the singing of the Gloria, the church bells are rung and then remain silent until the Easter Vigil of Holy Saturday night. Because Holy Thursday is a feast day of the Blessed Sacrament, there is a procession of the Eucharist after the Mass to an altar of repose set up for the occasion. Then the main altar is stripped bare.

Good Friday

On Good Friday we remember the death of Jesus. According to an ancient custom, Mass is not celebrated on this day or before the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. The celebration of the Lord's passion and death takes place in the afternoon. There are three parts to the liturgy of the day: The Liturgy of the Word; the Veneration of the Cross; and Holy Communion with Hosts consecrated on Holy Thursday.

Easter Vigil

On Holy Saturday the Church meditates on the suffering and death of Jesus. Then the Church gathers to celebrate the Easter Vigil. The celebration of the Easter Vigil should take place at night, beginning after nightfall or ending before the dawn of Sunday.

The Easter Vigil has four parts: The Service of Light; the Liturgy of the Word; the Liturgy of Baptism; and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

During the Service of Light, all the lights in the church are turned off and a fire is prepared outside the church. Then the fire is blessed, and the Paschal Candle is lighted from the new fire. The candle is carried into the dark church. It is a sign of Christ, the Light of the World, who has overcome the darkness of sin and death. The lighted Paschal Candle provides the only illumination. Then, from the flame of the Paschal Candle, members of the congregation light the small candles that they are holding. The flame is passed from person to person until everyone is holding a lighted candle. The light from the Paschal Candle and all the small candles provides the only illumination in the church during this portion of the liturgy. This section concludes with the singing of the Easter Proclamation, the Exsultet.

During the Liturgy of the Word, the story of God's great love for us is proclaimed in readings from the Old and New Testaments. There are seven Old Testament texts. Although it would be preferable that all seven Old Testament readings be proclaimed, the number of readings may be reduced if the circumstances necessitate. However, three Old Testament readings should be proclaimed. Minimally, two Old Testament readings must be proclaimed. The readings recall the great events of salvation, beginning with creation itself and were selected to dispose people to celebrate the sacraments of Christian initiation with great faith.

During the Liturgy of Baptism, those who have been preparing for Baptism and their godparents are called forward. The priest and ministers then go to the baptismal font, if this can be seen by the congregation. Otherwise a vessel of water is placed in the sanctuary. After the candidates are baptized, all present stand with lighted candles and renew their baptismal promises as a sign that they share

the new life of Jesus through his resurrection. The newly baptized and confirmed await their first sharing in the Eucharist.

The Easter Vigil concludes with the celebration of the Eucharist. This is a joyous sharing in the sacrificial meal of Jesus Christ, Lord, and Risen Saviour.

Liturgical Colours

On Holy Thursday for the Mass of the Lord's Supper, white is used to signify the joyful events this liturgy recalls.

Red for the Good Friday liturgy signifies the passion and death of Jesus.

For the Easter Vigil, white signifies the joy of Christ's resurrection. Gold may also be used since this is the most important and joyous celebration of the liturgical year.

Symbols for the Easter Triduum

Bread and the cup of wine recall the institution of the Eucharist by Our Lord at the Last Supper.

The cross recalls the crucifixion and death of Jesus on Good Friday.

The Paschal Candle and water represent the light and new life of Christ's resurrection and of our baptism.

Compiled by William Holden from various sources.

Romans 5:8

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Sermon

A priest, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the pastor asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the pastor, "why didn't you do that before the service?"
Came the reply: "Because I didn't need one then."

Palm Sunday visit

It was Palm Sunday, but because of a sore throat, five-year-old Bobby was kept home from church with his grannie. When the family returned home, they were carrying several palm fronds and Bobby asked them what they were for. "People held them over Jesus' head as He walked by," his father explained.

Bobby was aghast. "I don't believe it! The one Sunday I don't go, and He shows up!"

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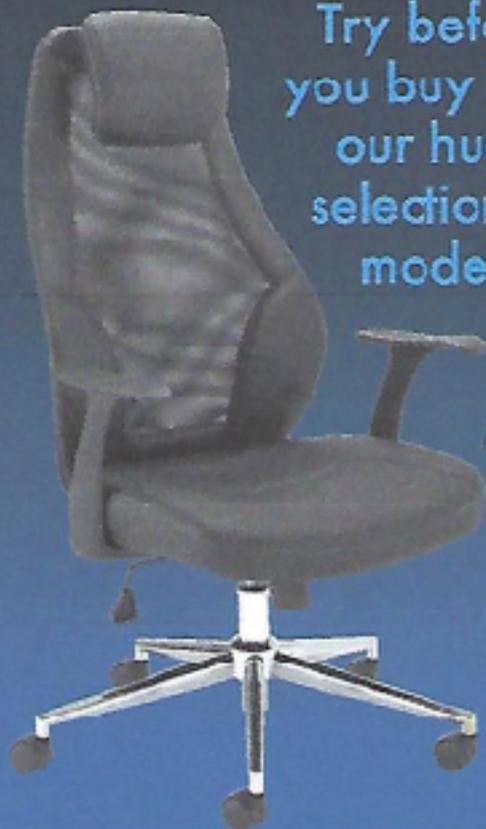


Among their demands were bourbon biscuits, double fees for weddings, and Sundays off

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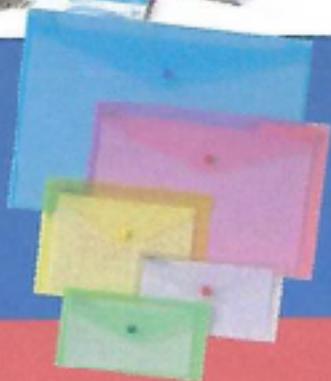


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My Memories at St Peter's by Rev. Tony Martlew

My thoughts go back to the dark days of the war (2nd WW not the first). The only reason I found myself in the choir was because my friend's father was the vicar. My first day I felt quite apprehensive as I was introduced to my "boss" Ernie Sharp, the Choir Master. Very soon I was kitted out with cassock and surplice. On reflection I can't say that the Christian message had much meaning in my life. Anyway, it was something to do on Sundays. Morning and evening services were always full. Not very difficult when you consider the size of the original Church.

The time came when my friend's father, Rev. Hamilton was moved to another Parish many miles way. The new Vicar duly arrived, Rev. Chisholm. We choir boys gave him the name of 'Roaring Devil' (goodness knows why, but you know what school boys are like!).

It was during his sermon on a dark Winter's evening when we heard a doodlebug (V1) approaching. The engine stopped and we all knew that we only had a few seconds before it crashed and exploded. We quite expected the Vicar to shout "everyone under the pews!", but he didn't and carried on with his sermon, seemingly oblivious of our coming demise. An almighty explosion, and the building shook to its foundations. We were still alive and unharmed. It exploded in a field just the other side of the bypass and its only victims were a few rabbits!

I wonder how today's generation would cope with a similar situation?

I wonder!

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

MONEY MA££ERS - Figures for February 2023

Receipts

Planned Giving	£	3136
Income tax recovered	£	594
Community Centre Income	£	1070
Collections/other giving	£	74
Fundraising	£	63
Keynotes subs & adverts	£	118
Central Board of Finance interest	£	1679
Pay Donation Station/Sundry Donations	£	526
PCC Fees	£	246
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£	7506

Payments

Parish Contribution	£	6304
Salaries	£	717
Utilities and Insurance	£	403
Rectory	£	315
Community Centre running costs	£	231
Upkeep of services	£	391
Church running expenses	£	577
Photocopying costs	£	286
Sum Up/Bank Charges	£	37
PCC Reimbursement of expenses	£	67
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£	9328

Year to date deficit £3,542



Date	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for April (Year C)
SAT 1ST	The work of the Foodbank
SUN 2ND	Palm Sunday Isaiah 50. 4-9a Philippians 2. 5-11 Matthew 26. 14- end of 27
MON 3RD	Monday of Holy Week Ours Sidespeople
TUES 4TH	<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i> Our PCC
WEDS 5TH	Wednesday of Holy Week Our Standing Committee
THURS 6TH	Maundy Thursday Our Pastoral Care Team
FRI 7TH	Good Friday Our Readers
SAT 8TH	<i>Easter Eve</i> Our Intercessors
SUN 9TH	Easter Day Acts 10. 34-43 Colossians 3. 1-4 John 20. 1-18
MON 10TH	Monday of Easter Week The Clergy of our Diocese
TUES 11TH	Tuesday of Easter Week Christian Unity
WEDS 12TH	Wednesday of Easter Week All Missionaries
THURS 13TH	Thursday of Easter Week Victims of political and social violence
FRI 14TH	Friday of Easter Week All Civil Servants
SAT 15TH	Saturday of Easter Week Our City Council

Date	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for April (Year C)
SUN 16TH	Second Sunday of Easter Acts 2. 14a. 22-32 1 Peter 1. 3-9 John 20. 19-end
MON 17TH	Those that attended the Alpha Course
TUES 18TH	Sunday School
WEDS 19TH	Our Lay Ministers of Communion
THURS 20TH	Our organist Gill and the choir
FRI 21ST	Our Churchwardens
SAT 22ND	Our Bible Study Groups
SUN 23RD	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 2. 14a. 36-41 1 Peter 1. 17-23 Luke 24. 13-35
MON 24TH	The Women's Social Group
TUES 25TH	Our understanding of the Gospels
WEDS 26TH	All theologians
THURS 27TH	All writers on religious subjects
FRI 28TH	All retired clergy and their spouses
SAT 29TH	For all women clergy and theologians
SUN 30TH	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 2. 42-end 1 Peter 2. 19-end John 10. 1-10

And finally.....

Thank you, Father, that you raised Jesus from the dead on that first Easter Day and that He is alive now and forever. Thank you that whoever believes in Him and turns away from selfish living and towards you can be forgiven through His name. Thank you that Jesus is the same today as He was then and will always be.

Thank you for the Bible – your inspired, unchanging, and living Word to guide us. Help us to hold fast to Your teaching and not to be led astray. Your Word is truth. Fill us with Your Holy Spirit, Lord, that we might be Your faithful, fruitful Resurrection People.

In the name of our living Lord, Jesus.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



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