

KEYNOTES



April 2024
£1.00

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

Rector The Reverend Tim Gage
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.

CURATE Rev Jan Butter Tel: 07889 400889
Email: westblatchingtoncurate@outlook.com

CHURCHWARDENS Jonathan Cooke Tel: 07973 851174
David Keeling Tel: 01273 501504

HON. TREASURER Mandy Gander Tel: 01273 271982

CENTRE BOOKINGS Maria Williams Tel: 01273 721918

PASTORAL CARE

Sick Visiting Carol Gander Tel: 01273 555414

KEYNOTES EDITORIAL TEAM

Jane Cummings	Tel: 01273 880274
Michael Evans	Tel: 01273 567399
Charlie Flackhill	Tel: 01273 965122
Mandy Gander	Tel: 01273 271982
Fran Breeze	Tel: 01273 421115

E-mail: stpetersadmin@zoho.com
Church website : www.stpeterswestblatchington.org.uk

PARISH EVENTS DIARY

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

**Friday 19th April - 1.10pm - Free lunchtime concert -
Simon Carrey - piano recital**

**Saturday 27th April - 2pm - Arts and crafts afternoon-
full details in Keynotes**

Sunday 28th April - 11.30am - Annual Parochial Church Meeting

**Sunday 5th May - 2pm - Rogation Sunday - Parish Boundary
walk followed by ice cream in Hove Park**

**Friday 17th May - 1.10pm - Free lunchtime concert -
Folkadelix**

Saturday 18th May - 6.30pm - Tim's hymns and Pimms evening

**Please continue to keep us 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 2024 issue is
11th April**

**“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!
According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born
again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus
Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable,
undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you.”**

~ 1 Peter 1:3-4

EDITORIAL

Welcome to our April edition of Keynotes.

We hope that you have been having a time of reflection this Lent and have enjoyed celebrating Easter.

This month we look forward to a free lunchtime concert on 19th April at 1.10pm, a piano recital by Simon Carrey. On Saturday 27th April at 2pm there is an Arts and Crafts afternoon, please do come and join us! There will also be the usual drop in coffee morning on Friday 5th April at 10.30am.

Ladies, a date for your diary: 1st May St Peter's Women's Social Group will be hosting a Charity Cream Tea at Maggie's house at 2.30pm. The cost is £5 and there will be a raffle! This is all in aid of Victim Support, so come and support the charity whilst socialising and having fun.

With regard to Church services, we have the Eucharist every Sunday at 10am, the All Age Eucharist being on 21st April and Sunday School being on 28th April. The mid week Eucharist is at 7.45pm on Wednesday 17th April and Pray Together is being held on Wednesday 3rd April at 7.45pm. We do hope that as many people as possible can attend.

Thank you very much for your response to our subscription renewal campaign. We apologize for chasing last year's subscribers and badgering others to join. We now have 78 subscribers, a slight increase from last year. Your support, together with that of our advertisers is most helpful for our planning. If you have friends who might be interested in the church, please take a copy of Keynotes and give it to them or pass yours on to them when you have finished with it.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) takes place on the 28th April at 11.30 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 – if you are not, you will not be able to vote at the APCM. Please see Pam Miles who will be able to let you have a form.

Editorial Team

WOMEN'S SOCIAL

On the 8th February 10 members met for fish and chips at Bankers, Western Road, Brighton. It was a lively meeting over a delicious lunch.

Clare hosted a coffee morning at the Rectory on the 22nd February assisted by Maggie.

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting in church at 10.30 a.m. on Thursday, 14th March when we will confirm the dates of meetings for 2024/25 and decide on our charity for the coming two years.

On the 21st March, Iris will host a coffee morning.

Maggie Keeling



**"Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me."**

~ John 14:6



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Christian Philosophers

I have written about some of the early church fathers and their influence on our faith in previous issues of Keynotes, now in the coming months will write about the influence of some of the Christian Philosophers of the Middle Ages. I will start with my favourite, St Thomas Aquinas.

The Enduring Legacy of St. Thomas Aquinas.

St. Thomas Aquinas, a Dominican friar, was a towering figure in the Scholastic movement of the Middle Ages. His quest for knowledge was tireless, bridging the gap between faith and reason. In an era marked by tension between theology and philosophy, Aquinas sought harmony. He believed that reason, when guided by faith, could lead to a deeper understanding of both God and the natural world.

One of Aquinas's most significant contributions was his synthesis of Aristotelian philosophy with Christian theology. He believed that reason was a gift from God, and through it, humans could uncover truths about the universe. By incorporating Aristotle's ideas into Christian thought, Aquinas laid the groundwork for a more rational approach to theology.

Aquinas's magnum opus, the "Summa Theologica," remains a cornerstone of Catholic theology. In it, he addresses a wide range of topics, from the nature of God to moral philosophy. His methodical approach and clarity of thought continue to inspire scholars and ordinary people seeking an understanding of life.

But what relevance does Aquinas hold for us today, in our modern world? In a society marked by scepticism and uncertainty, his emphasis on reason and faith offers a guiding light. Aquinas reminds us that intellect, reason, and spirituality need not be at odds; rather, they can complement and enrich each other. In the Living Faith Course, we talk about the three legs of the Anglican stool, Faith, Scripture (the Bible) and Reason.

In this day and age Aquinas's teachings offer a firm foundation for grappling with life's complexities. In a world where moral dilemmas abound, his ethical framework provides a compass for navigating complex decisions. His emphasis on natural law reminds us of the inherent dignity of every human being and calls us to work for justice and the common good.

Aquinas's emphasis on dialogue and engagement with diverse perspectives is particularly relevant today. In an age marked by polarization and division, his commitment to reasoned discourse offers a model for fostering understanding and cooperation. In a way, this is the method that Pope Francis is using with the Group he has set up to examine the role of women in the Roman Catholic church, where he asks those involved to walk together with Christ on the journey listening to each other. That to me recalls another journey with Christ, on Easter Day, the road to Emmaus.

I will conclude this item by referring my readers to another item I have included, the words of Thomas Aquinas great hymn, "Of the glorious body telling" or to give it the Latine name, "Pange Lingua." A great summary of our Christian Faith.

William Holden



Seen in a West Country church:

Whenever I see a little church,
I always pay a visit.
So when at last I'm carried in,
the Lord won't ask 'Who is it?'

Our charity for April is the Sri Lankan Prison Ministry

Rev Sriyamal Fernando has a passion for reaching people with the message of being saved through Jesus Christ. He is based in a church in the large coastal city of Negombo. Recently they have been given permission to resume services in one of the local prisons.

Christian ministry includes handing out food parcels and basic items like soap or toothpaste as well as running worship services in Prison.

Please support them if you can.

Thomas Aquinas Hymn “Pange Linga” – “Of the glorious body telling.”

For me, this is a deep reflection on the Christian Faith, encompassing in a profound manner Christ's incarnation, the institution of Holy Communion and his saving death and resurrection. The core of our faith. It is something that I read reflectingly during the administration of communion.

Try reading it through, thinking about the words, and what you believe. I hope that you can have the same experience that I have of thanksgiving and confidence in God's saving act.

1 Of the glorious body telling,
O my tongue, its mysteries sing,
And the blood, all price excelling,
Which the world's eternal King,
In a noble womb once dwelling,
Shed for this world's ransoming.

2 Given for us, for us descending,
Of a virgin to proceed,
Man with man in converse blending,
Scattered he the gospel seed,
Till his sojourn drew to ending,
Which he closed in wondrous deed.

3 At the last great supper lying
Circled by his chosen band,
Duly with the law complying,
First he finished its command,
Then, immortal food supplying,
Gave himself by his own hand.

4 Word-made-flesh, by word he maketh
Bread his very flesh to be;
Man in wine Christ's blood partaketh:
And if senses fail to see,
Faith alone the true heart waketh
To behold the mystery.

Part 2 Tantum ergo

5 Therefore we, before him bending,
This great sacrament revere:
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes the inward vision clear.

6 Glory let us give and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honour, might and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing,
Who, from both, with both is one. Amen.

Source: [The New English Hymnal #268](#)

William Holden



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

Craft Afternoon – Saturday 27th April from 2pm to 4pm

Theme of the afternoon to be “By, In or On the Sea”

Everyone welcome, adults and children alike. Young children must be supervised at all times as we will be using scissors, glues and small objects.

May work as individuals or in small groups. No previous ability or knowledge necessary

This should be a fun afternoon to revisit or try something new in a relaxed and supported way.

Try drawing, painting, stencilling, collage, mosaics with various mediums such as paper, buttons, beads and material, bead work, pictures on or with stones, preparing materials for patchwork and bunting and mixed medium work.

All materials will be supplied including paper and templates.

No charge for admission but donations towards materials will be very welcome and much appreciated.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, cakes and biscuits available to buy throughout the afternoon but must be consumed away from the craft tables.

Further information from Christine James

01273 412677

cmejames@virginmedia.com



The South Downs by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

I love heading out at the weekends for a hike over the Downs - but 90 million years ago, this part of the planet wouldn't have been a safe place to be. I'd have been busy avoiding the teeth of hungry aquatic predators like the 10-metre-long Mosasaurs as I cruised through a shallow sea. But it would be much smaller, less fearsome prehistoric organisms that would shape Sussex. The calcium shells from microscopic marine algae slumped to the sea floor and millions of years of pressure and erosion moulded them into the curvaceous chalk hills that form the familiar foundations of the South Downs.

It only feels like yesterday (well, about 6,500 years ago) that we humans showed up and got to work. The wild Sussex woods were chopped down and eventually sheep grazing became the dominant activity on the cleared hills for many centuries. The sheep-nibbled short downland turf is an internationally rare habitat, rich in flowers and the creatures that depend on them.

And, as chalk downland is such a rare habitat, the species that live here are also uncommon. Our butterflies are a prime example. Species like the Grayling, Silver-spotted Skipper, Small Blue, Adonis Blue and Chalk Hill Blue are restricted to this special habitat.

But it's not just wildlife that benefits. Those porous chalk hills filter, store, and provide us with most of our water. They also offer loads of other free services from flood prevention to pollination and food production. The open countryside around Sussex also offers us immeasurable physical, mental and spiritual benefits. The South Downs were designated a National Park in 2011.

While writing this article, I discovered a letter penned in 1915 by the Lewes naturalist, W. E. Nicholson, expressing concern for the future of the South Downs around Lewes, and especially the rare Adonis Blue butterfly and scarce Forester Moth that live there. I'd like to think that Mr. Nicholson would be re-assured to know that, more than a century later, his beloved Lewes Downs, butterflies and moths are still just where he left them and all flourishing under the care of Sussex Wildlife Trust on their reserves at Malling Down and Southerham.

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 Together Service.

This is a lovely, peaceful, prayerful time in The Old Church and is always finished with Compline. Please join us.

The Prayer Together Services are always on the first Wednesday of each month at 7.45pm.



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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A Miracle from the Albion!

Most of us know that our dear friend, Beryl Reeves, is a keen Brighton & Hove Albion supporter; she also has an illness for which she needs an operation. On Friday 16th February she saw her consultant who had decided that she was ready for her life-saving operation. They had a discussion as to what day the operation would take place and Beryl asked that it not be 14th March as Albion are at home in the Europa Cup and she has a ticket, so the decision was taken for the operation to be the following day.

On the Sunday following her meeting with the consultant Beryl emailed Paul Barber, CEO at BHAFC, congratulating him on the Albion's performance that day, and she took the opportunity to mention her discussion with the consultant.

On the Monday, Royal Mail delivered the lovely goods pictured here, beautifully boxed from Paul Barber, the players and staff from Brighton & Hove Albion. Beryl was in awe at what had arrived!

Beryl, our thoughts and prayers are with you in your recovery.

Jonathan Cooke



“And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.”

~ Acts 4:33

People and Places of the Bible

Luke

For me Luke is the pillar against which I lean for my faith in times of stress. He is the author of about one third of the New Testament and is an outsider. He was not a Jew expecting the Messiah. He was not a disciple. He was a highly educated man as can be discerned from the Greek in which both the Gospel and Acts are written and his historical approach as is set out in his opening verses to both books in his explanation of his reason for writing them to Theophilus. Luke 1.1-4 and then linking it in Acts 1.1-5.

Luke refers to eye-witnesses, and states that he has carefully investigated everything from the beginning. It is Luke who gives details of the birth of Christ. From Luke we have the Benedictus in Morning Prayer and the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in Evening Prayer.

Luke is present with Paul on some of his journeys and from the “we” passages in Acts, (Acts 16.10-17, 20. 5-21.18, 27.1 – 28.16) we know that Luke was with Paul. This is further affirmed by Paul in his Epistles to Philemon and Colossians.

Luke also had studied the Old Testament and was a theologian as well as historian as well as the “beloved physician” but also a fellow worker in the spread of the Gospel.

After Paul’s death in AD64, Luke returned to his home area around Antioch and was the leader of the church there.

Malta

Malta (also called Melita) is a rocky island located sixty-two miles south of Sicily in the Mediterranean Sea. The island is about seventeen miles long and nine wide. It is mentioned in Scripture as the place where Paul was shipwrecked on his journey to Rome (Acts 28:1). At the time of Paul’s visit, Malta was part of the Roman Empire and overseen by an official named Publius (Acts 28.7).

Malta is significant in the Bible because God used a shipwreck and Paul’s status as a Roman prisoner to bring the gospel to a people who would have otherwise never heard it. Luke records the shipwreck in great detail in Acts 28 and says that the islanders were kind and friendly to the shipwrecked crew and passengers, giving them shelter,

food, and hospitality when they washed up on the shore. The bay on the east side of Malta where Paul's ship ran aground is now called the "Bay of Paul" or "St. Paul's Bay."

The night of the shipwreck on Malta, Paul was gathering a bunch of sticks for a fire on the beach. As he threw the sticks into the fire, a deadly viper bit his hand (Acts 28:1–3). The islanders who saw it declared that the gods must be punishing Paul for murder or some such crime (Acts 28:4), but, when Paul suffered no harm, they decided he must be a god (Acts 28:5–6). The chief official of Malta then took care of Paul and his friends for three days. While staying in his home, Paul had the opportunity to heal the official's father, who was sick with fever and dysentery. Soon, the rest of the islanders brought their sick for Paul to heal (Acts 28:7–10).

Paul, still technically a Roman prisoner, stayed on Malta for three months before another ship could take them all to Rome. The miracles Paul performed earned the respect of the Maltese people, and the gospel was uplifted. The relationship between Paul and the people of Malta was so friendly that, by the time another ship was ready to transport them on to Rome, the people loaded the missionaries down with supplies and bid them a good journey (Acts 28:10).

What happened in Malta is important because it showcases another example of God using disasters to bring about His plan. Paul had been arrested. He was a prisoner. Then the ship on which he was being transported was caught in a terrible storm. For two weeks the sailors fought the storm, barely eating or sleeping (Acts 27:14–20). Then the ship ran aground and broke apart. Everyone on board had to swim for the shore. None of those events was good in themselves. But as Paul had written earlier, "In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). The shoreline the refugees found was that of Malta. The people of Malta had never heard the gospel. God in His wisdom had arranged for His premier evangelist to wash up on their shore with no way to leave until the whole island had heard the good news.

William Holden

STOCKHOLM CATHEDRAL

During a recent city break to Stockholm we decided on Friday 1st March to visit the Storkyrkan {Great Church} on the island of Gamla Stan, the centre of Stockholm's old city, for a few moments of quiet prayer and reflection as it was the date of the World Day of Prayer. As we approached the building all the church bells around the city started ringing. On entering we went to the ticket office to pay our entrance fee but were told there was no charge on that day. We enquired why, was it a holiday? and why were all the bells ringing? We were told it was the day of Alexei Navalny's funeral and all they asked was that we lit a candle in his honour and placed it in the large globe candle holder representing the whole world.

We went in and lit our candle and sat quietly, the atmosphere in the church was one of great peace and serenity and we felt very moved and lucky to have been a very small part of an important occasion remembering a man of great conviction and courage who literally died for his beliefs. {Whether or not we shared them was irrelevant in that moment}



We explored the church further and found the very large sculpture ensemble of St George on horseback slaying a dragon. This superb sculpture was carved from oak with details using elk antlers and horsehair and was made in 1489 by Berndt Notke of Lubeck. An interesting aspect of this sculpture was that St George rather than looking down at the dragon he is trying to slay is in fact looking up towards a small crucifix on a nearby column. This was to promote the belief that although man {or woman} could and should fight against evil only God here represented by Jesus could destroy evil and hence St George is looking towards Him for help.

For people today this monument provides inspiration to take up the struggle against evil with God's help wherever it may appear.

Christine James

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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;

Annual Lightning Protection	£ 168.00
Easter Paschal Candle	£ 56.25
Envelopes and paper	£ 59.88
Livestreaming licence	£ 109.00
Alpha course guide books	£ 43.75
New Church keys	£ 31.99
Sunday School supplies	£ 87.35
Palm Crosses	£ 8.31

Thank you for your sponsorship

Our grateful thanks go to the people who wishing to remain anonymous, very kindly donated the cost of the new wicks for the candles and the cost of the refreshments 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.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The service this year was compiled by the Christian women of Palestine and the service for Hove churches was held at the Central United Reformed Church in Blatchington Road.

We were reminded that the rota for organising the services is decided several years in advance. Indeed, Palestine was chosen for this year some six years ago and had given the final version to the International Organising committee two years ago. The committee had agreed that the service should go ahead as planned, despite the current situation in Palestine.

It was a simple service giving an insight into the lives of Christian women in the area and asking that we all share peace with one another.

I was delighted that ten members of our congregation attended and that there was a total of about 100 people, men and women. We all enjoyed tea, coffee, cake and conversation after the service.

Maggie Keeling



The 5th commandment

In reply to a question in Sunday school, one little boy said that the fifth commandment is: 'Humour thy father and thy mother.'

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

10.00 am Sunday Parish Eucharist with Sunday School in term time (except third Sunday of the month)

10.00 am All-Age Worship on the third Sunday of the month

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

3rd Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm -
Shorter Eucharist Service

10.00 am Online service via Youtube



The Rector is always available for spiritual counsel and healing prayer

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**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.

“That you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”

~ Ephesians 1:18-21



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR GARDEN?

- 1) Give your greenhouse a thorough scrub with hot soapy water.
- 2) Prepare beds for the growing season. Dig in a 5cm (or more) layer of compost or well rotted manure. Also work in general purpose fertiliser.
- 3) Check your patio plants are not drying out.
- 4) Lift and divide established border perennial plants to improve vigour and create new plants for your garden.
- 5) Pinch out the tips of Fuschia plants and Sweet Pea shoots to encourage bushy growth.
- 6) Divide Primroses once they have finished flowering.
- 7) Tie in Climbing Roses.
- 8) Prune Penstemons now - cut back all the old shoots to the base.
- 9) Finish cutting back any dead foliage on perennials and ornamental grass plants.
- 10) Tie in Clematis and Honeysuckle stems.
- 11) Deadhead Daffodils and Tulips but leave the foliage intact allowing it to die back naturally.
- 12) Apply a high nitrogen fertiliser to the lawn for a boost at the start of the season.
- 13) Brush away worm casts on a dry day.
- 14) Mow your lawn regularly as required. Lower the mower blades towards the end of the month.

Greenfingers



COME INTO MY KITCHEN.....

At our recent coffee morning I was asked to share my recipe for Fruit Tray Bake so here it is!

FRUIT TRAY BAKE

120g mixed dried fruit
50ml freshly brewed tea or coffee
200g soft dark brown sugar
200g softened butter
3 medium eggs
200g self-raising flour
½tsp mixed spice

Topping
2-3tbsps Demerara sugar

In a small dish add the freshly brewed tea or coffee to the dried fruit and leave to stand for at least 30mins to allow the fruits to plump up. Stir every few minutes to ensure all the fruit can soak up the liquid.

Meanwhile, preheat the oven to 180C fan assisted. Grease and line a 27cm x 17.5cm tin.

Beat together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.

Add the eggs one at a time, adding a little flour between each one to help prevent curdling. Mix until well combined.

Add the remaining flour and the mixed spice and mix well until combined.

Drain off and discard any excess liquid from the soaking fruit and add the fruit to the cake batter and mix until well combined.

Pour the mixture evenly into the prepared tin. Scatter the Demerara sugar over the top to give the cake a nice crisp topping.

Bake in the centre of the oven for 25-30 minutes or until a nice golden colour. Test with a skewer to make sure it's cooked through.

If you wish, while the cake is still warm, scatter on more Demerara sugar.

Leave in the tin to cool a little before turning out onto a wire rack to cool completely before cutting into slices.

The following is one of our favourite supper recipes although I must admit to not usually following a recipe! When I saw this recipe I thought it would give the risotto a little something extra.

PRAWN RISOTTO

SERVES 4

1 litre chicken stock
400g raw shell-on king prawns
2tbsp butter
2tbsp olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
2 garlic cloves, crushed
1 red chilli, finely chopped
700g Arborio or other risotto rice
1tbsp tomato puree
200ml white wine or vermouth
1 lemon, zested and juiced
handful of parsley or chives, finely chopped
extra virgin olive oil, to serve

Bring the stock to a simmer in a pan over a high heat and lower in the prawns cooking for 2 minutes until pink. Strain the prawns, then remove the heads and shells and put these back into the stock, setting aside the prawns for later. Keep the stock on a low simmer to infuse.

Heat the butter and oil in a shallow casserole or deep frying pan and fry the onion for 8-10mins or until soft but not golden. Stir in the garlic

and chilli, fry for a minute, then add the rice. Fry for 6-7 mins or until the grains start to turn translucent. Stir in the puree and cook for 1 min.

Pour in the wine and bubble until all the liquid has evaporated. Strain the stock, or add a few ladlefuls at a time through a sieve into the rice. Stir and simmer over a low heat until absorbed, before adding a few more ladlefuls. Cook for 12-15 mins or until the rice is tender and the risotto is creamy. Stir in the lemon zest, a squeeze of juice, herbs and the cooked prawns.

Fold in off the heat for 30 seconds to warm through the prawns just before serving.

Drizzle with a little extra virgin olive oil if you like.

And finally an easy, comforting dessert.

RHUBARB SPONGE WITH ORANGE BLOSSOM CREME FRAICHE

SERVES 4

110g butter, room temperature, plus extra for greasing

450g trimmed rhubarb

2 thyme sprigs, leaves picked

1 ½ tsp muscatel vinegar

3 tbsp honey

110g caster sugar

2 eggs

1tbsp milk

170g plain flour

1tbsp orange blossom water

500ml crème fraiche

Heat the oven to 200C/180Cfan/gas 6. Butter a 1 litre baking dish.

Cut the rhubarb into 3cm lengths, put into the dish and scatter over the thyme leaves. Pour over the vinegar and honey.

Use the back of a wooden spoon or an electric beater to cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs and milk, then fold in the flour. Spoon the mixture over the rhubarb and bake for 40mins until the sponge is risen and beautifully golden.

Mix the orange blossom water into the creme fraiche and serve alongside the sponge, which is best served hot from the oven or reheated in a microwave.

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***The Parish Church of St. Peter
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FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES

Our afternoon concert series continues with

Simon Carrey - piano recital

1.10 p.m. on Friday 19th 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!



APRIL SEASONS, FESTIVALS & SAINTS DAYS

April 9th - Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Echoes of Faith and Bravery

Within the rich tapestry of theology and the stark narratives of martyrdom, Dietrich Bonhoeffer emerges as a luminous figure of steadfast belief and remarkable bravery. His birth on February 4, 1906, in Breslau, Germany (present-day Wrocław, Poland), set the stage for his eventual prominence as a cornerstone of Christian philosophy and a powerful emblem of defiance against despotism.

Embarking on a theological odyssey, Bonhoeffer's journey was deeply rooted in a passionate dedication to the gospel and an intense scholarly quest. His education at elite establishments such as Berlin University and Union Theological Seminary in New York City led him to a deep engagement with the confluence of theology and societal issues. His key texts, "The Cost of Discipleship" and "Letters and Papers from Prison," present a compelling vision of Christianity, emphasizing the essence of discipleship and ethical obligation.

Yet, Bonhoeffer's faith was not confined to the scholarly world. Amidst the upheaval of Nazi Germany's ascent, he faced the existential threats of totalitarianism with unwavering determination. Convinced that true faith necessitates action, he took a stand against Hitler's regime, culminating in his involvement in a conspiracy to overthrow the dictator.

At the heart of Bonhoeffer's narrative was his connection with Bishop George Bell of Chichester, a relationship built on mutual convictions and respect. Bell, a vocal critic of Nazi policies within the Anglican Church, became a pillar of support for Bonhoeffer, reinforcing their theological bond and providing solace during trials and tribulations.

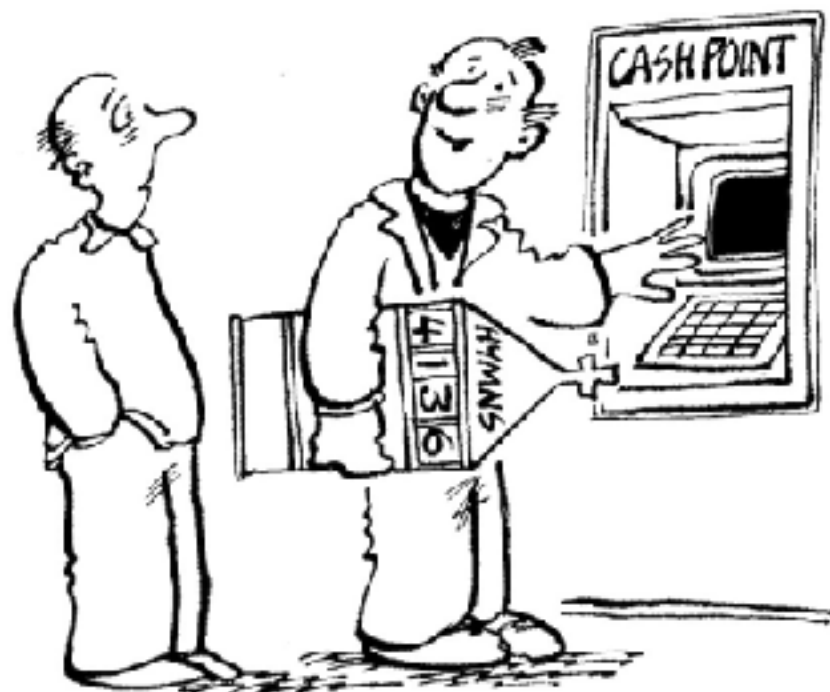
Bonhoeffer's resistance came with grave consequences. Arrested by the Gestapo in 1943, he faced imprisonment under dire conditions, yet his faith did not falter. Even from his cell, he offered profound insights on divinity, human suffering, and the ecclesiastical role in a divided realm.

His life was tragically cut short on April 9, 1945, at Flossenbürg concentration camp, just days before its liberation, a martyr to his deep-seated beliefs and the sacrifices he bore for them.

Bonhoeffer's legacy continues to inspire and challenge, advocating a theology of substantial discipleship that critiques passive faith and calls for a lived expression of belief. His courage to face malevolence, even at the expense of his life, underscores the profound impact of valour and ethical fortitude.

In the annals of Christian martyrdom, Bonhoeffer's legacy radiates, a tribute to the resilient power of faith against the shadows. His camaraderie with Bishop George Bell not only symbolizes the strength found in fellowship but also highlights the critical importance of unity in the quest for justice and veracity.

Compiled by William Holden from various sources.



*...between you and me, it's the
only way I can remember my PIN number!*

Prayer Walking in our community

Prayer walking is just what it sounds. You pray as you walk.

What is the point? Think of it as stepping out as God's children, to intercede for those who are living in your community. Be intentional about praying for God's blessings on what you see and feel.

Simply praying: "Your Kingdom come, your will be done..." is an excellent start.

Prayer walking is NOT about being seen to be praying, you are not doing it to 'show off'. It is about seeing your neighbourhood with compassion, and then praying for God's mercy and blessing to be upon it.

So, as you go along, you can pray quietly, or in silence. If you do want to pray out loud, take a friend along, so that it will seem merely as if you are chatting. In fact, when you do a prayer walk, it is best not to do it alone. Always try and go with someone else. After all, Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs.

On your prayer walk, try and be aware of what God is saying to you as you move around the community. As the former Archbishop of York, Lord Sentamu, once advised: "If any Bible verses pop into your head or if you have any pictures, visions or words of knowledge, turn these into prayer."

At the end of the prayer walk, share with others what you prayed for, and heard from God. Write any impressions down, so you can keep track of how you have prayed for your area.

Again, to quote Lord Sentamu, "If you feel that God has highlighted specific needs or challenges, think about how to take action. Could you or the church be part of God's solution practically, as well as prayerfully?"

MONEY MA££ERS - Figures for February 2024

Receipts

Planned Giving	£	3464
Community Centre Income	£	1287
Payaz Donation Station/Sundry Donation	£	575
Collections/Other giving	£	73
Keynotes subs/adverts	£	123
Legacy	£	5000
Fundraising	£	246
PCC fees	£	104
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£	10872

Payments

Parish Contribution	£	6651
Salaries	£	788
Utilities and Insurance	£	467
Rectory	£	326
Community Centre running costs	£	961
Sum Up/Bank Charges	£	24
Upkeep of services/churchyard	£	143
Church running expenses/maintenance	£	217
Printing costs	£	235
Funds sent to Aldrington School	£	1000
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£	10812

Year to date surplus £704



Date	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for April (Year B)
MON 1ST	The work of the Foodbank
TUES 2ND	Those living outside our Parish
WEDS 3RD	Ours Sidespeople
THURS 4TH	Our PCC
FRI 5TH	Our Standing Committee
SAT 6TH	Our Pastoral Care Team
SUN 7TH	Second Sunday of Easter Acts 4. 32-35 1 John 1.1 - 2.2 John 20. 19-end
MON 8TH	Our Intercessors
TUES 9TH	All Civil Servants
WEDS 10TH	The Clergy of our Diocese
THURS 11TH	Christian Unity
FRI 12TH	All Missionaries
SAT 13TH	Victims of political and social violence
SUN 14TH	Third Sunday of Easter Acts 3. 12-19 1 John 3. 1-7 Luke 24. 36b - 48
MON 15TH	Our City Council

Date	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for April (Year B)
TUES 16TH	Our Churchwardens
WEDS 17TH	Those that attended the Alpha Course
THURS 18TH	Sunday School
FRI 19TH	Our Lay Ministers of Communion
SAT 20TH	Our organist Gill and the choir
SUN 21ST	Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 4. 5-12 1 John 3. 16-end John 10. 11-18
MON 22ND	Our Bible Study Groups
TUES 23RD	All retired clergy and their spouses
WEDS 24TH	The Women's Social Group
THURS 25TH	Our understanding of the Gospels
FRI 26TH	All theologians
SAT 27TH	All writers on religious subjects
SUN 28TH	Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 8. 26-end 1 John 4. 7-end John 15. 1-8
MON 29TH	For all women clergy and theologians
TUES 30TH	Our readers

And finally.....

A Prayer for April 2024

based on John 20: 19-end

Almighty Father,

In these weeks after Easter, help us to receive afresh
the new life Jesus' resurrection makes possible.

Lord, come to us. Walk through the locked doors of our fears.
Bring us your peace. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Send us onto our daily front lines to share your resurrection
peace and hope and love with those who are lost and lonely.

Thank you for meeting us in Jesus, our Lord and our God.

We are your Easter people. Hallelujah.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



rants arage

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