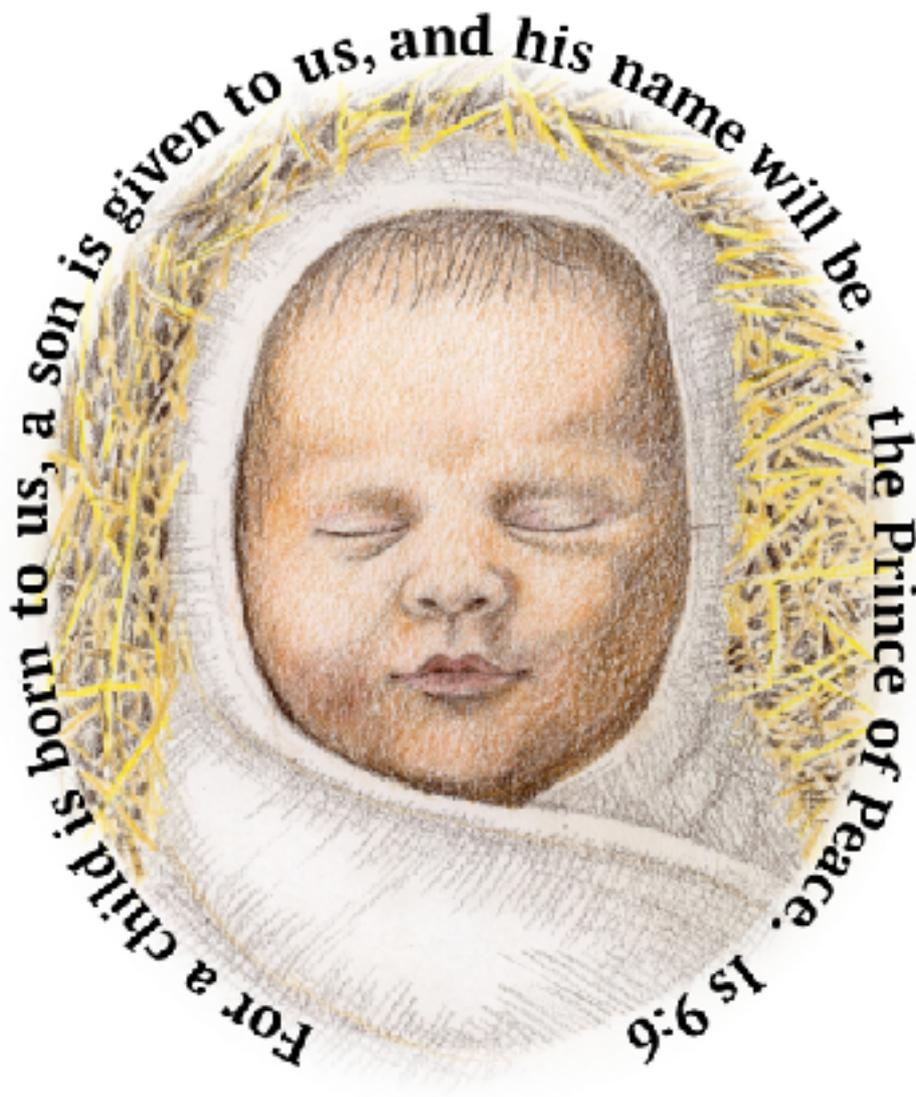


KEYNOTES



**December 2023/
January 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: 501504**

HON. TREASURER **Mandy Gander** **Tel: 271982**

CENTRE BOOKINGS **Maria Williams** **Tel: 721918**

PASTORAL CARE

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

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Mandy Gander	Tel: 271982
Fran Breeze	Tel: 421115

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

PARISH EVENTS DIARY

The following events taking place in January as notified are:

Friday 19th January - 1.10pm - Free lunchtime concert -
Rev Michael Maine - organ recital

Saturday 27th January - 2.00pm -
St Peter's Bake Off

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 February 2024 issue is
11th January

All Mission and Outreach activities for 2024 are at the back of Keynotes to put in your diaries. It looks to be an exciting year!



Luke 2:7

"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

EDITORIAL

As this issue is the last for 2023, we wish to thank all our contributors for the time and effort they have spent on producing material for Keynotes.

Also a big thank you to all those who helped with cleaning the church (including removing all those labels!) and the decoration of the Community Centre in October and Blue Jeans Day in November.

Our last lunchtime concert of the year took place on 17 November when we were entertained by the Amity Singers followed by the film night on 18 November. These and similar activities make for a lively church and should help in building a good community spirit both now and for the future. As you read this the Christmas Tree Festival will probably just have taken place which we are sure will have been a resounding success.

We are now moving towards the programme of Christmas events and services which are all detailed later in this edition and also in the Christmas Newsletter. We're sure they will all be well supported. The lunchtime concert on 19 January has a welcome return of the Rev Michael Maine who will give us an organ recital and who knows he may even sing a song or two!

Renewal time for Keynotes subscriptions is upon us and we thank you for your support. This year we increased the number of subscribers to 78 and, at the very least, we want to maintain this for next year. Keynotes is the means of keeping you informed of what is going on in our parish and the church at large. It is a way in which we can build the church family. We need to have as many of you as possible subscribing and reading it. The cost is held at £1 per issue or £8 for the ten issues for the year. We will be chasing you for this in the coming weeks unless you have a standing order in place.

An outward measure of a church's strength is the number of people on the electoral roll. This determines several matters; how many members we can have on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) and the number of representatives on the Deanery Synod. We need to show that we are a "growing church". If you are not on the Electoral Roll contact Pam Miles on 552744. Being on the Electoral Roll entitles you to vote at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), and the next one will be before the end of April 2024.

As this issue covers December and January we would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Editorial Team

Rectors Ramblings

New year, New you.

Can you believe it? Another year has gone by. For us as a church family at St. Peter's it's been marked with both sorrows and joys. The pain that comes from having to say goodbye to dear friends and the joy of welcoming new ones. As each new year begins we not only look back and reflect on the last year but are inspired to make the most of 2024.

Out of the thousands of people who live in this parish it is a sad fact that many have spent little time investigating what life, faith and meaning are all about. However, when people tell me that they have questions about these things I must say I am delighted. It's people who have arrived to a conclusion without ever asking any questions that I'm far disappointed for. But where can we ask those kind of questions without fear of having to hide how we really feel or without being made to feel stupid? Well, that's where I hope we can help. Beginning in January we have starting something called the Alpha course, it's precisely the kind of place where you can feel safe asking questions about life, faith and meaning and to top it off you even get fed as well. So why not contact us, ask us on a Sunday or visit www.stpeterswestblatchington.org.uk/alpha I'll see you there.

Rev Tim, Rector

WOMEN'S SOCIAL

On the 9th November we met for coffee at Carol's home when she and Pam Miles treated us to lovely refreshments.

We will meet in church for our annual Preparation for Christmas Service at 11.00 a.m. on the 14th December.

On the 18th December, Carol will be celebrating her birthday. Many happy returns of the day, Carol.

Maggie Keeling

EAT. CHAT. LAUGH. PLAY. DISCOVER...
WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE MAN CALLED JESUS.
WHATEVER YOU THINK ABOUT HIM, YOU'RE WELCOME TO JOIN US!

epic

11 - 18s
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John 3:16

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Community Centre

On Monday the 23rd and Tuesday 24th October a small but keen team turned up bright and early to re-decorate the walls in our Community Centre. It was looking very tired, with many scrapes and marks.



Everyone came with their supplies of paint brushes, dust sheets, masking tape and rollers.

Maria supplied us with hot drinks and biscuits to keep us going.

A huge thank you goes to Maria & Stephen Williams, David & Maggie Keeling, Roger & Julie Yates, Barry Ward, Miles Gander & Ian Brocken. What a team!

There is enough paint left over to do the kitchen at some point and once again we will be asking for helpers.

Mandy Gander



Monday Morning Blues

I saw this prayer on the Kings School Newsletter. I thought it was so lovely, that I wanted to share it with you x

As we make our way, often wearily, to work, or hop into the car and do the weekly shop, we think of those who through the night while we were asleep have stacked the shelves, made safe the roads, transported goods, kept factories running, cared for the sick and dying. Bless them with the rest that they deserve and need, and may we be thankful for the work they do that makes our lives each day a little easier.

Bless the work we do, the words we say, the love we share and the grace we show, on our daily walk through this beautiful and precious world.

For those struggling on their journey, Lord, offer your steady hand over the rough terrain they are facing today, and let them drink of your living water, pure and refreshing, soothing, restoring the weariest of souls.

God bless you in rising, through dawn chorus and cheerfulness. God bless you in working, through honest toil and service. God bless you in sharing, through spoken word and embracing. God bless you in resting, through peaceful sleep and protection.

Lord, bless our journey through this coming week. May the pace be steady, paths made safe, no obstacles impede, and conversations with fellow travellers be fruitful and uplifting. Lord, bless our journey through this coming week.

Bless the week ahead. May its challenges not overwhelm us, circumstances not discourage us, and in all things may we remember you are with us in our journeying, your love our fuel, your word our guide, today and always.

Bless the strangers I meet today, Lord; in café, bakery, bus stop, car park, crowded street. Their lives a mystery, sorrows, joys, loves and deep concerns so well disguised. But bless them, Lord, these

unknown faces, make this day one of encounter, not only with strangers but also with you.

Amen

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"For the next part of our carol-service, Nigel, the verger's nephew will play his interpretation of Silent Night..."

Nativity Quiz

- 1 Where did Mary and Joseph live before Jesus was born?
a) Nazareth b) Bethlehem c) Jerusalem
- 2 What was the name of the angel who told Mary she would have a child?
- 3 What did Joseph do for a living?
- 4 Who was the Roman ruler when Jesus was born?
- 5 Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
- 6 How did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?
- 7 Why couldn't Mary and Joseph find a place to stay?
- 8 Where does the Bible say Jesus was born?
a) In a stable b) In hay c) In a manger
- 9 According to the Bible, which animals were specifically mentioned as being present in the stable when Jesus was born? a) sheep and a donkey b) cattle and a donkey c) donkey, sheep and cattle d) None
- 10 What does the angel say to the shepherds when they tell them to go to Bethlehem?
- 11 The wise men travelled to Jerusalem. a) northward b) southward c) eastward d) westward
- 12 What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus?
- 13 How many Wise Men visited baby Jesus?
- 14 What gifts did the wise men bring for Jesus?
- 15 Who spread the news about baby Jesus throughout Bethlehem?
- 16 What is the City of David also known as in the bible?
- 17 Which of the gospels tell the story of the Nativity?
- 18 What does Jesus' other name, "Immanuel", mean? a) God with us b) Son of God c) He who is God d) Chosen One
- 19 How many days after the birth of Christ did Joseph and Mary give him the name Jesus?
- 20 Jesus was born on the 25th of December. True or false?



Our Charity for December



Off the Fence

For over 20 years, Off The Fence’s vision has been to see an end to social and spiritual poverty in Brighton and Hove.

In 1993, CEO Paul Young responded to the question, “When are Christians going to get off the fence and do something about social poverty?”

This was when he and his wife, Wendy, made the decision to go out into the streets of Brighton and Hove to help the most marginalised and vulnerable in the city. Paul started out with one friend, speaking with the homeless, guiding them to areas and services in the city where they could receive help.

This team of two soon turned into a team of four. Eventually, seventy volunteers from across a range of local churches and different denominations joined them, all with the goal of caring for, and saving the lives of those who were falling through the cracks of society.

Restoring the lives and hopes of the homeless, women in difficulty and vulnerable school children in Brighton and Hove.

Please support them if you can.

Our charity for January is The Martlets



Martlets is a charity that cares for people living through a terminal illness in and around Brighton & Hove

The hospice plays a vital role in helping people to live life as fully as they can, right up until the end. Through expert clinical care provided by highly skilled and experienced doctors and nurses, they ensure that wherever possible peace, respect and dignity is retained – it is a very simple and very human ethos.

Martlets opened in 1997. The staff and services were formed from the merger of three separate charities: Coppercliff Hospice, Turner and MacMillan Day Hospice. Across the hospice services, more than 25,000 local people have been supported and cared for since 1997.

Most people receive care from us in their own homes. Outpatients also visit our hospice for pain relief, physiotherapy, counselling, welfare advice and social activities. Others choose to spend their final days here, or to join us as inpatients for respite care or symptom management. The Martlets Hospice cares for people affected by life limiting illness living in and around Brighton & Hove.

Please support them if you can.

Blue Jeans Saturday

Thank you to the large team of volunteers that turned up to Church on Saturday 11th November to help tidy the Church grounds.

There were leaves swept, gutters cleaned, ivy removed from walls, trees and bushes cut back and I am sure many other jobs that I didn't see.

Thank you also to Carol and Jane for feeding us all with some lovely crumpets, cheese scones and chocolate biscuits, all washed down with a hot drink or two.

What a marvellous team we have at St Peter's. Thank you all so much.

Mandy Gander



Crossword Clues

Across

- 1 Rely (Psalm 62:7) (6)
- 4 'He stretches out the heavens like a — , and spreads them out like a tent to live in' (Isaiah 40:22) (6)
- 7 What the dove carried the olive leaf in, when it returned to Noah's ark (Genesis 8:11) (4)
- 8 Annoy (1 Samuel 1:6) (8)
- 9 Judah's last king, who ended his days as a blind prisoner in Babylon (Jeremiah 52:11) (8)
- 13 'They all — and were satisfied' (Luke 9:17) (3)
- 16 Eliphaz the Temanite was one; so was Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite (Job 2:11; 16:2) (4,9)
- 17 National Association of Evangelicals (of the USA) (1,1,1)
- 19 Popular song for New Year's Eve, Auld — — (4,4)
- 24 Able dock (anag.) (8)
- 25 The number of stones David chose for his confrontation with Goliath (1 Samuel 17:40) (4)
- 26 Elgar's best-known 'Variations' (6)
- 27 Soak (Isaiah 16:9) (6)

Down

- 1 Money owing (Deuteronomy 15:3) (4)
- 2 Conciliatory (Titus 3:2) (9)
- 3 'Do this, whenever you — it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:25) (5)
- 4 A group assisting in the governance of the Roman Catholic Church (5)
- 5 One of the gifts Joseph's brothers took with them on their second journey to Egypt (Genesis 43:11) (4)
- 6 'Reach out your hand and — — into my side. Stop doubting and believe' (John 20:27) (3,2)
- 10 Be outstandingly good (2 Corinthians 8:7) (5)
- 11 'What — — that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him?' (Psalm 8:4) (2,3)
- 12 Horse's feet (Judges 5:22) (5)
- 13 Notice (Deuteronomy 17:4) (9)
- 14 Comes between 2 Chronicles and Nehemiah (4)

15 One of Israel's northern towns conquered by Ben-Hadad (1 Kings 15:20) (4)

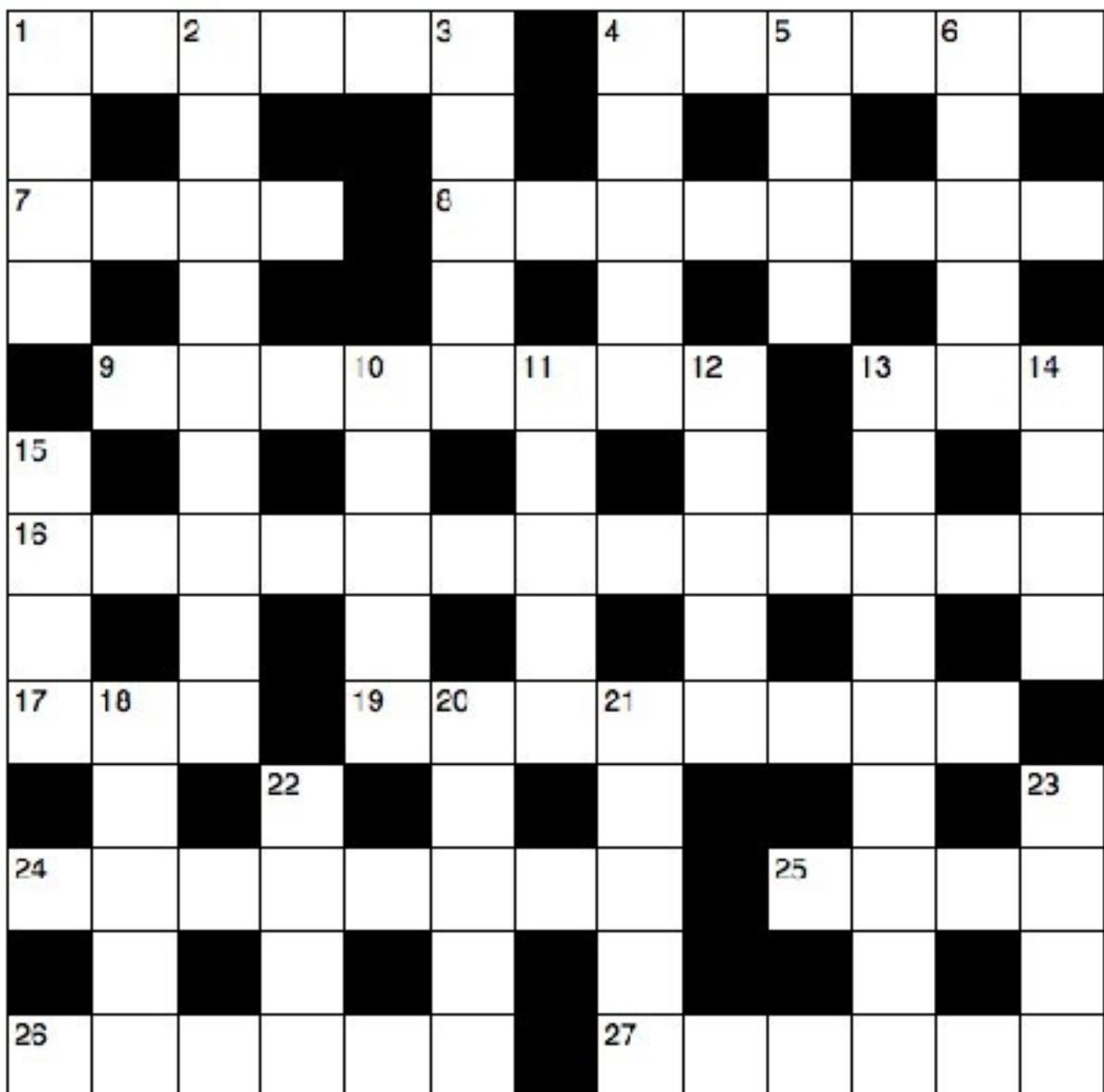
18 Narnia's Lion (5)

20 One of the two rivers in which Naaman would have preferred to wash (2 Kings 5:12) (5)

21 Avarice—one of the evils that come from inside people (Mark 7:22) (5)

22 Knight Grand Cross of St Michael and St George (1,1,1,1)

23 Jacob's first wife (Genesis 29:23) (4)



Holly by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

I'm sure you'll agree that these are crazy times, folks. Back in Ancient Rome they had a festival – Saturnalia – which saw their society turn upside down for a week each December. It seems Saturnalia's traditions of chaos and mayhem are now the daily norm for us Brits but, as we career towards Christmas, we have another thing in common with Saturnalia. We will soon be paying our respects to the Holly tree.

Holly has been celebrated in many traditions over the centuries because, as a native evergreen, its vibrancy in the dead of winter could easily be mistaken for immortality. Holly was the sacred tree of Saturn, the Roman god of agriculture. In pagan tradition, the Holly King ruled over the Oak King from Midsummer to Midwinter. Holly was easily adopted by Christians, who saw many links between the tree and the life of Christ. Today, Holly remains a centrepiece of our Christmas decorations, cards and cakes.

Each Holly tree is either male or female. While both produce delicate white flowers in May, it's only the female Holly that bears a berry as red as any blood. When these berries are produced in profusion, it's taken to be a sign of an oncoming hard winter – although in reality it's the outcome of a successful spring. Holly's prickles provide protection for nesting birds, their flower buds are food for the Holly Blue butterfly's caterpillar and their ripe berries are essential for thrushes.

If you're after a tree filled with folklore then Holly must take a bow. So if you're planning to deck your halls with boughs of the stuff this Christmas, here's a quick user guide. First off, *never* cut down a Holly tree – that's guaranteed bad luck, a superstition which has spared many Holly trees from the woodsman's axe. And make sure you leave Holly trees in your hedgerows to prevent witches from running along the top. If you bring Holly into your home at Christmas, it'll help protect you from those pesky festive faeries. Only female Holly leaves under your pillow will allow you to predict your future in your dreams. Oh, and don't forget to get rid of your Holly decorations before Twelfth Night (but don't burn them, that's bad luck too). Holly trees will protect you against lightning strikes (I'm not sure if this has been scientifically proven so don't blame me if you still get zapped). And don't eat the berries, they're poisonous, but if you have smallpox you can drink an infusion made from the leaves.

Stick to those rules folks and you'll have a peaceful Christmas. Me? I've had enough of the state of the world today. I'm going to pour some wine, put on my toga and pretend I'm in ancient Rome. Somebody pass me my fiddle.



1 John 1:9

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

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. 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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Mission and Community Partners 2024

Thank you to everyone who voted for which charities you would like our Church to support next year. We have gone for Charities that reflect the mission and or concerns of the Parish and will be reviewed on a yearly basis.

1 Martlets

Martlets is a local charity providing essential care to people affected by terminal illness in Brighton and Hove, and surrounding areas. Our expert teams provide the very best care and support, helping patients and their loved ones to live life to the full during the precious time they have together

2 Sri-Lankan prison ministry

Rev'd Sriyamal Fernando.

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

3 Whoopsadaisy

We're a friendly charity based in beautiful Preston Park, supporting children with disabilities and their families from Brighton & Hove and the surrounding area.

Our founder, Nina Holland, discovered the power of conductive education when her own son Christopher was diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. She set up Whoopsadaisy to share this life-changing method with other children and their families.

Since then, we're proud to have supported many more children with disabilities to live full and independent lives.

4 St. Nicholas Seminary, Cape Coast, Ghana

St Nicholas Seminary is an Anglican/Episcopal institution that seeks to equip the people of God in their response to His call to serve in the Church and the world, offering preparation for both lay and ordained ministry. Upholding the Catholic and Apostolic Faith proclaimed in the Scriptures and interpreted in the light of tradition and reason, St Nicholas Seminary seeks to be a creative focus for exploring how we share in God's mission and

the proclamation of his Gospel to all the world, following the example of Jesus Christ our Servant King.

5 H&WB Foodbank

The food bank is here to support those in the local community who do not have sufficient funds to buy their own food. To access the food bank you must be referred from a community partner or agency. The food bank is open every Wednesday from 12:00-14:00 for clients by appointment only. St George's Church Hall.

6 Off the fence

For over 20 years, Off The Fence's vision has been to see an end to social and spiritual poverty in Brighton and Hove.

Information on the charities will appear at the back of Church and in Keynotes. Donations welcome and St Peter's agree to add an extra 50% to the total donation to forward on to the charity up to a maximum of £150.



People and Places of the Bible

As Revd Tim has been preaching on St Paul's letter to the Thessalonians during November, I thought it appropriate to write about the background to the place and two of the people concerned.

The Letter to the Thessalonians is generally considered to be the first of Paul's letters and was written from Corinth in 51 or 52 CE. It is interesting to note that there are no Old Testament Quotations on the letter. Paul is trying to complete his basic teaching from which he was driven away.

Silas

Silas, (born, possibly Rome—died 50 CE; Western feast day July 13, Eastern feast day July 30), early Christian missionary, companion of the apostle Paul.

Scholars generally believed that the Silas in Acts and the Silvanus in 2 Corinthians, 1 and 2 Thessalonians, and 1 Peter are the same. Acts 15:22 first mentions him as one of the "leading men among the brethren" (i.e., the Christian community at Jerusalem); they sent him to Antioch (now Antakya, Turkey), where he is identified as a prophet (Acts 15:32) preaching to the Antiochene Christians.

He probably remained in Antioch until Paul chose him to join him on his second journey replacing Barnabas. With Paul, Silas travelled through what is now Turkey, visiting Syria and Cilicia, whose churches they strengthened. From Derbe they went to Lystra where they were joined by Timothy. Their journey brought them to Galatia and Troas, from where they sailed to Macedonia.

At Philippi (near present-day Kavála, Greece), where Paul first preached the gospel in Europe, Silas and Paul were beaten and imprisoned for healing an enslaved girl possessed by "a spirit of divination." After their release, they missioned in Thessalonica. Expelled, they went to Beroea, where Silas remained with Timothy while Paul travelled to Athens. He later rejoined Paul at Corinth. Silas and Timothy are mentioned in 2 Corinthians 1:19 as coworkers and in 1 and 2 Thessalonians as coauthors.

Nothing further is known about Silas's work with Paul. Sometime later he apparently joined St. Peter the Apostle, whom he seems to have served as secretary; 1 Peter 5:12 suggests that Silas wrote this letter

with Peter. Subsequent legend designates him the first bishop of Corinth.

Timothy

Timothy, (born, Lystra, Lycaonia [now Lusna, Turkey.]—died AD 97, Ephesus [now in Turkey]; Western feast day January 24 [in Roman church January 26 with Titus], Eastern feast day January 22), disciple of St. Paul the Apostle, whom he accompanied on his missions; traditionally held to be martyr and first bishop of Ephesus.

On his second visit to Lystra in 50, Paul discovered Timothy, taking him as a colleague but first circumcising him out of respect for his Jewish mother and the custom of the Jews in whose communities they were to do mission work (Acts 16:1–3). Timothy worked with Paul and Silas and helped found churches, notably in Corinth, Thessalonica, and Philippi. He apparently accompanied Paul to Ephesus and Asia Minor (Acts 19:22; 1 Corinthians 16:10–11). As the presence of his name in the first verses of Colossians, Philemon, and Philippians indicates, he was subsequently associated with Paul's imprisonment at Ephesus. In the Pastoral Epistles he is solely in charge of the Christians at Ephesus, possibly the site of his release from prison as chronicled in Hebrews 13:23.

Tradition, probably based on New Testament inferences, made him first bishop of Ephesus, where he was allegedly martyred under the Roman emperor Nerva. One legend asserts that he was clubbed to death by a mob for protesting against the orgiastic worship of the goddess Artemis.

Paul's two Pastoral Epistles addressed to Timothy reveal concern for his well-being, and he is praised in 1 Corinthians, Philippians, and Romans. He is also mentioned in 1 and 2 Thessalonians and 2 Corinthians. St. John of Damascus states that Timothy witnessed the end of the life of the Virgin Mary.

Thessalonica

Thessalonica was a bustling city in Macedonia, modern day Greece. It was an important communication and trade centre located at the junction of the great Egnatian Way and the road leading north to the

Danube. Its population numbered about 200,000, making it the largest city in Macedonia. It was also capital of its province.

Paul and Silas travelled to Thessalonica from Phillipi on Paul's second missionary journey. He spent three weeks teaching in the Jewish synagogue, but most of the Thessalonian Jews became indignant and formed a mob to drive the men out of the city. However, "some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women" (Acts 17:4). That was the beginning of the church at Thessalonica which was predominantly gentile.

Compiled by William Holden from various sources.

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Children's version of the Christmas story

- When the three wise guys from the east side arrived, they found Jesus in the manger.
- When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

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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;

Tea and Tots supplies	£	18.00
New wicks for the candles	£	8.82
Stamps	£	24.00
Livestreaming licence	£	109.00
New gutter brackets for Church	£	112.50
Monthly website fee	£	19.34
Christmas Parish Newsletters	£	238.00
New Church security light	£	72.00

Thank you for your sponsorship

Our grateful thanks go to the various people who wishing to remain anonymous, very kindly donated the cost of the paint for the Community Centre, the paper for Keynotes, the cost of the refreshment for when we tidied the Church, the new sign board magnets and the new tea towels.

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.

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

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

10.00 am All-Age Worship on the third 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



The Rector is always available for spiritual counsel and
healing prayer



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 3rd December

Christmas tree All-Age service 10am
(countdown to Christmas)
Advent carols 5.00 pm

Sunday 24th

'Christingle in the Crib' 5pm
Midnight Mass 11.15pm

Monday 25th

Christmas day all-age Eucharist 10am

Sunday 31st December

All-Age Carols 10am



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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.**

Nativity Quiz Answers:

- 1 Nazareth
- 2 Gabriel
- 3 Carpenter
- 4 Caesar Augustus
- 5 To register for the census
- 6 We are not told in the Bible
- 7 There was no room at the inn
- 8 c) In a manger
- 9 d) None
- 10 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people'
- 11 d) westward
- 12 A star
- 13 The Bible doesn't say
- 14 Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
- 15 The shepherds
- 16 Bethlehem
- 17 Matthew and Luke
- 18 a) God with us
- 19 8, according to the law
- 20 False; we don't know the date



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR GARDEN?

- 1) Dig over empty borders and prepare your soil for next year's planting.
- 2) Group potted plants together in a sheltered spot in the garden to protect them from the harshest winter weather.
- 3) Prune climbing Roses now, removing diseased or damaged growth and tying in any new shoots to their support. Prune older flowered side shoots back by about two thirds of their length.
- 4) If any of your Rose bushes suffered from blackspot or rust during the summer, gather up and remove any fallen leaves still on the ground to reduce the chance of spreading infection next year.
- 5) Leave the faded flower heads on your Hydrangeas until spring, as they provide frost protection to the swelling buds further down the stems.
- 6) Keep checking over stored Dahlia tubers, keep an eye out for rot.
- 7) Check climbers and climbing shrubs are securely attached to their supports with ties.
- 8) Spread fresh gravel around alpine and rockery plants.
- 9) Avoid walking on your lawn when it is blanketed by heavy frost or snow as this damages the grass.
- 10) If it is a mild winter continue to cut the lawn as it grows but raise the height of the mower blades.
- 11) Keep clearing leaves off the lawn to let the light in and prevent dead patches appearing.

12) Repair fences and apply a wood preservative to prevent them from rotting.

Greenfingers

Your Christmas Dinner Table

Gaze around your dinner table
As you dine on Christmas Day
Treasure them while you are able –
One day they may well go away.

Love is really hard to measure,
Love's not easy to define,
But memory's the only treasure
That will stand the test of time.

So, treasure all that Christmas laughter,
Hold it close – that's my advice.
For there may come a time soon after
When memory is worth great price.

It is sad that life is temporary,
Happy times will disappear;
When those you treasure are a memory,
The memory is a treasure dear.

By Nigel Beeton



COME INTO MY KITCHEN.....

With Christmas just around the corner, this month brings a selection of recipes to enjoy.

FIG, MOZZARELLA AND SERRANO HAM SALAD

SERVES 2 but can easily be doubled or tripled for a crowd

6 figs, quartered
2tbsp sherry vinegar
½ tsp Dijon mustard
3tbsp olive oil
1 tsp runny honey
50g rocket
1 ball of mozzarella, torn into pieces
6 slices Serrano ham
small handful of basil leaves

Put the figs, cut-side up on a plate. Whisk the vinegar and mustard then gradually whisk in the olive oil and honey. Season, then spoon over the figs and leave at room temperature for 20 minutes.

Divide the rocket, mozzarella and ham between the two plates. Spoon over the figs and dressing, then finish with a few basil leaves.

BEST EVER CAULIFLOWER CHEESE

SERVES 6 as a side

1kg cauliflower, broken into large florets
1tbsp olive oil
75g butter
4tbsp plain flour

400ml whole milk
400ml double cream
150g mature cheddar, grated
good grating of nutmeg

Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Put the cauliflower into a bowl and toss with the olive oil and plenty of seasoning. Tip onto a large baking tray, ensuring each floret has space around it. Roast for 20-25 minutes or until lightly charred and tender to the point of a knife. Cool slightly and turn the oven down to 200C/fan 180C/gas6.

Put the butter into a pan over a medium heat and, once melted and foaming, add the plain flour. Cook, while stirring, for 5 mins until the butter turns a deep golden brown. Put the milk and cream into a measuring jug.

Turn down the heat to low and splash in a few tbsps of the milk mixture and whisk vigorously. It will form a thick paste that might look a little split but will come back together eventually. Keep adding the milk, 2-3 tbsps at a time, whisking vigorously all the time, only adding more milk once fully absorbed and the sauce is thick. Once all of the milk and cream are in, you should have a smooth sauce. Simmer gently, while regularly whisking for 15 mins to cookout the flour and thicken the sauce some more. Remove from the heat and stir through the cheddar, grate in the nutmeg and season well.

Put the cauliflower florets into a deep baking dish then pour over the sauce. Bake in the oven for 25-30 mins or until the top is charred, bubbling and golden.

Some younger members of my family do not enjoy Brussels sprouts! I am always looking for different ways to serve them.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS GRATIN

SERVES 6-8 as a side

800g Brussels sprouts, trimmed and halved
50g butter
50g plain flour
450ml whole milk
2 tbsp double cream

1 tbsp English mustard
75g streaky bacon, chopped
100g fresh breadcrumbs
25g parmesan, grated
1 tbsp thyme leaves

Bring a large pan of water to the boil and cook the sprouts for 5 mins before draining well and setting aside to dry.

Melt the butter in a pan then add the flour, stirring and cooking for 2 mins. Remove from the heat before whisking in the milk a little at a time until the mixture is smooth and all the milk has been added. Return to the heat and cook until boiling and thickened, stirring continuously. Remove from the heat again and stir in the cream and mustard, seasoning to taste. Put the sprouts in a large bowl and stir in the sauce, mixing well, then transfer to a large baking dish.

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Dry-fry the chopped bacon in a large frying pan over a medium heat until golden and slightly crisp. Stir the bacon pieces through the breadcrumbs, along with the parmesan and thyme leaves, mixing well. Scatter the breadcrumb mixture over the sprouts and bake for 20-25 mins or until golden and crisp on top.

Maggie

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Depend. 4, Canopy. 7, Beak. 8, Irritate. 9, Zedekiah. 13, Ate. 16, Job's comforter. 17, NAE. 19, Lang Syne. 24, Blockade. 25, Five. 26, Enigma. 27, Drench.

DOWN: 1, Debt. 2, Peaceable. 3, Drink. 4, Curia. 5, Nuts. 6, Put it. 10, Excel. 11, Is man. 12, Hoofs. 13, Attention. 14, Ezra. 15, Ijon. 18, Aslan. 20, Abana. 21, Greed. 22, GCMG. 23, Leah.



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DECEMBER AND JANUARY SEASONS

FESTIVALS AND SAINTS DAYS

Advent

Advent is the beginning of the Church's year, a time of preparation for Christmas. Advent Sunday falls on 3rd December this year. Formerly it was a penitential season with fasting, like Lent, but this has faded away.

The Gloria is omitted during Advent and in the past Carol Services were held after Christmas, but this is rare nowadays.

However, the liturgical colour of purple is retained except for the third Sunday, Gaudete, when rose coloured vestments are worn.

The season is observed as a time for preparation not only for Christmas but also for the Second Coming of Christ at the Last Day

Christmas

For most of the Christian era Christmas as we know it has not been a prominent festival being overshadowed by the Cross and Resurrection.

It is important to remember that we do not know the precise date of Christ's birth so there is no reason to be concerned over the picking of a date suitable to gain the attention of a wider audience.

The earliest reference to the 25th December being the celebration of Christ's birth is in 336 which was probably chosen to supplant the pagan festival of Winter Solstice.

It was only in the Victorian era that it gained prominence to become a festival not only celebrated by the Church but also by the public at large. Until well into the eighteenth century, Christmas Day had not been a holiday. However, it is now recognised that God becoming man, the Word made Flesh, the incarnation, is important in understanding the full significance of the Cross and Resurrection.

Also, the Lectionary has white, or gold as the liturgical colours for the time up to Sunday 28th January 2024, The Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. Christmas is celebrated for all this time. Some people use this as a reason for keeping their Christmas decorations up past Twelfth Night.

The Days Following Christmas.

With all the festivities of Christmas the days which follow Christmas Day are lost. These switch between death and celebration, bringing us back to the reality of the world where peace and violence alternate.

Immediately after Christmas Day on 26th is St Stephen's Day commemorating the death of the first martyr. Then, more serene, on 27th St John, Apostle and Evangelist, the only apostle who died a natural death at a great age. Next on 28th is the Holy Innocents, the horrific slaughter of the children under two years by King Herod and on the 29th we remember St Thomas Becket, martyred in Canterbury Cathedral.

All these events remind us of the corroding effects of hatred and mirrors much that we see in the world today.

Feast of the Epiphany – 6th January

The Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles is an alternative title and descriptive of the event. Nowadays the Church tends to transfer the feast to the nearest Sunday. This year it will be moved it to the 7th January and probably celebrated together with the Baptism of Christ.

The feast originated in the Eastern Church where it also included the Baptism of Christ. It was introduced into the Western Church in the Fourth Century but lost the character of the Feast of the Baptism which is still retained in the East today. In the West it solely celebrates the coming of the Magi as related in Matthew Chapter 2.1-12. The Baptism of Christ is generally celebrated in the West on the following Sunday.

Reflections on the Modern-Day celebration of Christmas.

In my time I have seen significant changes in how the Church celebrates Christmas. As a choir boy in the 1940's we would not have sung a Christmas Carol at a service until Christmas Day and the Carol Service would have been held on the first Sunday after Christmas.

This would have continued in the immediate post war years but as rationing ended and more money became available, so the shops started to advertise Christmas earlier and earlier. Then came the sales after Christmas starting on Boxing Day so the attention of the public at large turned away from Christmas.

To reach the wider public the Church has had to move aspects of Christmas such as Carol Services and Christmas Tree Festivals to before Christmas to be in tune with the wider cultural mindset, to me this is like the Church fixing the Birth of Christ on a Pagan festival date.

Another thought that I have had is that the feast of the Slaughter of the Innocents would be better after the Epiphany.

Does anyone have any thoughts on this? I should be interested to know. Speak to me in church or email me at william.holden1@ntl-world.com.

William Holden

Compiled from a variety of sources.

The views expressed by individuals in Keynotes are not necessarily the views of the Church of St Peter, West Blatchington, or the Editorial Team. External advertising in this magazine does not imply any endorsement or promotion of the advertisement or its content, products or services. Errors and omissions, whilst regrettable, may occur. Please advise any member of the Editorial Team in writing and corrections will be published.

MONEY MATTERS - Figures for October 2023

Receipts

Planned Giving	£	3443
Income tax recovered	£	1327
Community Centre Income	£	1297
Pay Donation Station/Sundry Donations	£	450
Collections/Other giving	£	28
Fundraising	£	573
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£	7118

Payments

Parish Contribution	£	6304
Salaries	£	788
Utilities and Insurance	£	380
Rectory	£	326
Community Centre running costs	£	87
Sum Up/Bank Charges	£	11
Upkeep of services	£	193
Church running expenses/maintenance	£	49
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£	8138

Year to date deficit £51,096



Apologies that last month's Keynotes showed figures for October, they were in fact for September.

Date	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for December (Year B)
FRI 1ST	All school teachers
SAT 2ND	Aldrington School
SUN 3RD	First Sunday of Advent Isaiah 64. 1-9 1 Corinthians 1. 3-9 Mark 13. 24-end
MON 4TH	Kings School
TUES 5TH	Rev Jan, Jenny, Adam and Hannah
WEDS 6TH	Our preparations for Christmas
THURS 7TH	All clergy
FRI 8TH	All expectant mothers
SAT 9TH	Our understanding of our calling to follow Christ
SUN 10TH	Second Sunday of Advent Isaiah 40.1-11 2 Peter 3. 8-15a Mark 1. 1-8
MON 11TH	The Parochial Church Council
TUES 12TH	Rev Tim, Clare, Ben, Sammy and James
WEDS 13TH	Our faith in times of trial
THURS 14TH	Our vision of the wonder of the incarnation
FRI 15th	Our responsibility for the environment

SAT 16TH	Our Sunday School children and teachers
SUN 17TH	Third Sunday of Advent Isaiah 61. 1-4, 8-end 1 Thessalonians 5. 16-24 John 1. 6-8, 19-28
MON 18TH	St Peter's Tea and Tots
TUES 19TH	School Governors
WEDS 20TH	Our Readers and Intercessors
THURS 21ST	Bishop Ruth
FRI 22ND	Bishop Martin
SAT 23RD	Bishop Will
SUN 24TH	Fourth Sunday of Advent 2 Samuel 7. 1-11,16 Romans 16. 25-end Luke 1. 26-38
MON 25TH	Christmas Day Isaiah 9. 2-7 Titus 2. 11-14 Luke 2. 1-14
TUES 26TH	Archdeacon Martin
WEDS 27TH	Our understanding of the Gospel
THURS 28TH	All victims of violence
FRI 29TH	Our Government and all members of Parliament
SAT 30TH	Archbishops Justin and John
SUN 31ST	First Sunday of Christmas Isaiah 61. 10- 62.3 Galatians 4. 4-7 Luke 2. 15-21

Date	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for January (Year B)
MON 1ST	St Peter's Pastoral Care Committee
TUES 2ND	St Peter's Standing Committee
WEDS 3RD	Our Churchwardens
THURS 4TH	Ecumenical links with the Orthodox Churches
FRI 5TH	For greater unity of Christians
SAT 6TH	Thanksgiving for the God coming to earth
SUN 7TH	Epiphany Isaiah 60. 1-6 Ephesians 3. 1-12 Matthew 2. 1-12
MON 8TH	The spread of the Gospel
TUES 9TH	Our Sidespeople
WEDS 10TH	Our Servers
THURS 11TH	All missionary societies
FRI 12TH	All those who write about the Christian Faith
SAT 13TH	All hospital chaplains.
SUN 14TH	Second Sunday of Epiphany 1 Samuel 3. 1-10 Revelation 5. 1-10 John 1. 43-end
MON 15TH	Our City Council

TUES 16TH	All Chaplains to the Forces
WEDS 17TH	The housebound in our parish
THURS 18TH	All Christian Churches that they may work towards unity
FRI 19TH	Unity – The United Reform Church
SAT 20TH	The Church of England and the Anglican Communion
SUN 21ST	Third Sunday of Epiphany Genesis 14. 17-20 Revelation 19. 6-10 John 2. 1-11
MON 22ND	Unity - The Roman Catholic Church
TUES 23RD	Unity - The Orthodox Churches
WEDS 24TH	Unity – Methodist Church
THURS 25TH	Unity - The Baptist and Free Churches
FRI 26TH	For the Living Faith and Authorised Lay Ministry Courses
SAT 27TH	Residential, Nursing and Care Homes
SUN 28TH	Presentation of Christ in the Temple Malachi 3. 1-5 Hebrews 2. 14-end Luke 2. 22-40
MON 29TH	All theologians
TUES 30TH	The homeless
WEDS 31ST	The disadvantaged and the poor

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**St Peter's, West Blatchington
Mission and Outreach Timetable 2024**

**Sharing Jesus' love as we strengthen fellowship and
serve our community**

Saturday 27th January 2.00pm	St Peter's Bake Off	Team St Peter's
Saturday 24th February 7.30pm	Karaoke evening	Erica/Zanita
Saturday 9th March 10.00am	Blue Jeans Saturday - Churchyard Tidy up & Church spring clean	Team St Peters
Saturday 27th April 2.00pm	Arts and crafts afternoon	Christine James
Sunday 5th May 2.00pm	Rogation Sunday- Parish Boundary walk followed by ice cream in Hove Park	Team St Peters
Saturday 18th May 6.30pm	Tim's hymns & pimms evening	Charlie
Saturday 15th June 11.30am	Summer Fair	Zanita

Saturday 13th July 7.30pm	St Peter's Got Talent	Team St Peter's
Sunday 15th September 12.00pm	Picnic and cricket match at Hove Park	Tim
Sunday 29th September 2.00pm	Sponsored bike ride around Hove Park	Zanita
Sunday 6th October 11.30am	Harvest Festival Bring & share lunch in the Community Centre	Team St Peters
Saturday 19th October 7.30pm	Quiz Night	Christine James
Saturday 9th November 10am	Blue Jeans Saturday- Church yard tidy up	Team St Peters
Saturday 30th November 11.30am	Christmas Fair	Zanita
Saturday 7th December 2.00pm	Christmas wreath making workshop	Maggie Keeling
Saturday 14th December 7pm	Christmas Film Evening	Tim

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And finally.....

Christmas Prayer 2023

Almighty Father,

Thank you for your indescribable gift of Jesus – the Light of the world.

Thank you that He brought light and life to all who received Him during His life on earth and that He still brings light and life to all who receive Him.

Lord, how this broken world needs your light today. As we rejoice and give thanks for Christmas, we pray that the light of Jesus will pierce the darkness of self-interest and hatred – and change the hearts of those who do not love you or their neighbours.

We pray that by the power of your Holy Spirit you will deliver your people from evil, and that Your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven. Thank you, Father, that because of Jesus, light will always shine in the darkness and the darkness will never be able to extinguish it.

Glory and thanks and praise to You Father God, this Christmas and always. In Jesus' saving and powerful name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching





Please pay St Peters Church West Blatchington the sum of £8.00 (eight pounds) per annum on the 10th January 2024 and continue until further notice. Reference your Surname/Keynotes.

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