

# KEYNOTES

**Prince of Peace**  
**The Most High God**  
**The LORD is peace**  
**Father Son Holy Spirit**  
The LORD who provides  
**The God of Eternity**  
**Wonderful Counsellor**  
**THE ANCIENT OF DAYS**  
**The LORD of hosts**

**September 2024**

**£1.00**

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

**Rector** The Rev 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

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## **PARISH EVENTS DIARY**

**The following events taking place in September and October as notified are:**

**Sunday 15th September - 12.00pm - Picnic and cricket match at Hove Park**

**Saturday 21st September - 1.10pm - Free lunchtime concert - Simon Madge and Katy Friese-Green - baritone and piano 'Mozart to Musicals'**

**Sunday 29th September - 2.00pm - Sponsored bike ride around Hove Park**

**Sunday 6th October - 11.30am - Harvest Festival bring and share lunch in the Community Centre**

**Friday 18th October - 1.10pm - Free lunchtime concert - Hove Harmony**

**Saturday 19th October - 7.30pm - Quiz Night - annual Church fundraising event**

**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 October issue is 12th September**

**Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.**

**Matthew 6:31-33**

## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the September issue of Keynotes. After what we hope has been a restful summer, we're back to a new school term and the demands that go with it. In addition to new beginnings for children, did you know we're at the beginning of a new year?

In Orthodox Christianity there's an ancient practice of observing 1 September as the day of creation, marking the day in which God began the creation of the universe as described by the first chapter of the Bible. 1 September is the day that symbolises the expression 'In the beginning...'.

Although we're not celebrating a new year, just yet, it's always good to acknowledge the day when God said 'Let there be light'.

This month at St Peter's, we have our usual services and activities:

- 10am parish eucharist every Sunday with Sunday School (third Sunday of the month is an All Age service) and a midweek eucharist, 7.45pm, 18 September (third Wednesday in the month)
- Tea and Tots - 9.30am every Friday (term time) - fun, snacks, toys, songs, stories, craft and more
- Prayer together services – 7.45pm, the first Wednesday of every month
- Coffee/tea (and cake) drop-in sessions – 10.30am, the first Friday of every month
- Bible study – every second and fourth Wednesday - 11am at the Rectory and 7.45pm at Gill & Michael Evans' house - 11 Windsor Close, Hove.

Outside of this, on 15 September, 12pm, we have our picnic & cricket match in Hove park, and on 21 September, music lovers can take advantage of a free lunchtime concert at 1.10pm, with a recital from baritone, Simon Madge and pianist, Katy Frieze-Green.

Keen cyclists, and users of other types of wheels (children and adults), should head to Hove park on 29 September, 2pm, and take part in our sponsored bike ride. This is a great way to raise funds for the church and who can resist the sweet treats on offer to those completing the laps? Sponsorship forms will circulate in church. Hopefully the weather will hold out for our park-based events!

Our annual harvest festival 'bring & share' lunch takes place on 6 October, 11.30am, after our usual Sunday service, and we welcome foodbank donations.

If you're unable to get to the weekly Sunday eucharist, our services are streamed live. Find out more at [www.stpeterswestblatchington.org.uk](http://www.stpeterswestblatchington.org.uk) where you'll also be able to access service sheets and information on what's going on every month.

God bless.

Editorial Team



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## RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

But Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" (Acts 3:6 ESV)

What do you have to give?

By Peter's own admission he had nothing of monetary value to give away. Three years prior he had bid farewell to his Galilean fishing business in favour of following an itinerant preacher from Nazareth. Yet what he may have lost in monetary value he received far more in return in the form of spiritual treasure, in particular the gift of faith: Faith to stand up at Pentecost and proclaim Jesus, faith to not turn away when threatened to stay quiet by the religious elite of his day and faith as is seen in the passage above to perform a miraculous healing in the mighty name of Jesus.

All this points to the fact that Peter (along with all of us) are only able to give away what God has already given to us. Whether that is time, energy, money or spiritual gifts.

This month we reflect on our call to live out our faith with generosity shown in our financial giving. I hope that as a church family you will join me in doing three things as we consider our financial giving to our church: We pray, we plan and we give.

I pray that as we do this God would give us hearts like Jesus, that overflows with joy as he gives.

Rev Tim

**Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.  
Isaiah 41:10**

## WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

A big thank you to Iris and Maggie for a very pleasant coffee morning on 11th of July - and they also managed to bring the sunshine - and another big thank you to Christine and Sue for organising another delicious coffee morning at Chris' home. Those occasions are always well attended and much enjoyed.

Do please join us if you feel at all a bit lonely or in need of friendship... or just for a good chat, as I believe all of us women like doing that!

Next we had our Annual fund raising charity tea at Maggie's on the 8th of August, and a coffee morning at Suzanne's on the 22th of August.

There is NO meeting on the 12th of September and on the 26th of September we are invited at Jane Cummings', with Chris helping.

Dear Daphne, we hope you had a good birthday on the 23rd of August.- So sorry to have omitted this date from my previous notes!

The birthdays in September are:

Jane Gough on the 4th. - Christine James on the 5th - Maggie Keeling on the 21st and Moz on the 24th !

Wishing you all all the best,

Georgette Bassant





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## **HANGLETON AND WEST BLATCHINGTON FOODBANK**

Over the last couple of months, we have seen an increase in referrals coming through for individual clients. However, over the last couple of weeks, with it being the school holidays, we have started to see an increase in families being referred again.

In July we provided food parcels for 165 people compared with 108 for the previous month. We were also able to provide 35 emergency food parcels and 32 in June.

Some of the clients have been saying that they feel uncertain about what is going to happen as a result of the change in Government particularly about the approaching energy price cap changes.

Nevertheless, we continue to get positive feedback from clients who say that our Foodbank is a happy and safe place for them to come to in a time when they are struggling. They also say that they are always met with friendly, polite and helpful volunteers. Although we are fortunate enough at the moment to have sufficient volunteers to manage its operations, it could change in the near future!

The Foodbank is fortunate to receive donations both by direct debit/standing orders and ad hoc contributions. Thank you to those people and organisations. These donations are mainly spent on replenishing supplies for claimants.

Donations can be made via bank transfer to:  
Hangleton and West Blatchington Foodbank  
Code: 40-25-03  
Account no: 51650521

Food donations are always appreciated and the items particularly needed appear on the screen before the Sunday service as well as on the Foodbank facebook website. Monetary donations are however preferred as they provide greater flexibility to spend the money on what is needed.

Anna Samuelson  
Hangleton and West Blatchington Foodbank

## **Our Charity for September is Hangleton and West Blatchington Foodbank**



Their aim is to help individuals and families who are in urgent need and access short term support – in terms of food, but also money advice, energy advice and community support.

Clients must be referred to the Foodbank by a professional organisation, for example a Health Visitor, Social Worker, Housing Officer or Advice agency.

Clients are offered the opportunity to obtain money advice from Moneyadviceplus, and energy advice from BHESCo. The mental health charity MIND visit the Foodbank once a month to offer support and advice.

They rely on donations of food and monetary donations to help meet their costs.

Please support them if you can.

## **LAY VOCATIONS - WHAT IS GOD CALLING YOU TO DO?**

This article is based on the Living Faith course notes, a course for which I was a mentor for six years.

In the Church of England, every individual is called to a life of discipleship and apostolic living, which begins with baptism. Discipleship encompasses all the ways we learn from and follow Jesus in our daily lives. This call to service manifests in various forms and is essential for both the gathered and sent church.

The "Setting God's People Free Report" emphasizes the significant yet often overlooked roles lay people play in society. It highlights that 98% of church members are not ordained and spend 90% of their waking lives outside church-related activities. However, many are neither adequately envisioned, trained, prayed for, nor encouraged for mission and ministry in their everyday lives. Thus, there's a need to transform the church's culture to support laypeople better.

Changing the church's culture is akin to eating an elephant—one bite at a time. At the local level, practical steps can be taken, such as commissioning people, asking different questions, visiting people in their contexts, including prayers for everyday lives, and highlighting community activities on notice boards.

To support faith from Monday to Saturday, the Church of England offers resources like "Everyday Faith," which are easily accessible online. The London Institute for Contemporary Christianity provides a range of resources and courses, and the "Talking Jesus Course" aims to inspire and equip people to share their faith naturally and relevantly.

Understanding vocation is crucial. It's not just about church roles but encompasses various professions and occupations. Common myths about vocation include the belief that it is exclusively religious or requires exceptional holiness. John Adair identifies seven characteristics of vocational people: dedication, fit, not driven by money alone, creativity, enthusiasm, service, and love. Most people have the potential to be vocational if the circumstances are right.

Remember, each one of us is unique, and God has given us special gifts to be used for His purpose. We could, like the person who buried their talent, just do nothing. But vocation calls us to act. Our calling can be a single event or may come at several times in our lives for different tasks.

The idea that vocational people are holier than others is persistent but unfounded. A genuine sense of unworthiness is common among those called by God, both in the Bible and today. God calls us as we are, not as others think we should be, using our unique qualities for His kingdom.

Our calling can come in various forms. The person who “just” unlocks the church daily or “just” irons the altar linen is answering a call. And they don’t “just” do it: they do it! Each act of service, no matter how small it may seem, is significant in fulfilling God's purpose.

To discern if one is called to a particular ministry, consider these questions: Do you feel a persistent sense of calling? Do others recognise your calling? Is your sense of calling realistic? Is it well-informed? Engaging in prayer, conversation, experience, study, and mentorship, and reading relevant materials can also aid in this discernment process.

As Mary Oliver poetically asks, "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?" Each person's journey of discernment and answering their vocation is unique, aiming to align their true selves with God's call. Each of us is called, chosen, and beloved by God. Starting with that assurance, our task is to discern, with God and our community, what we are called to do and to be.

What are you called to do?

William Holden



## Cucumber

A small boy asked his mother for a cucumber to take to Junior Church. A slightly puzzled mother complied. Later she asked what it had been used for. “Sorry, mum,” he confessed. “I got it wrong. We were supposed to bring a newcomer.”

## **WASP SPIDER** by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

I never thought I'd say this, but I've fallen in love with a spider. And coming from a lifelong arachnophobe that's quite a claim. Whereas every other spider species sends me screaming in utter terror, the Wasp Spider has melted my heart. They are gorgeous. I met one on the South Downs last weekend and, hypnotised by her beauty, I spent hours with her; lying in the grass, staring lovingly into her eight eyes.

Wasp Spiders' rotund abdomens are delicately patterned with exotic black, yellow and white stripes. Every Wasp Spider looks subtly different – as if each has been individually hand-painted. Their eight legs wear stripy black and white stockings – the sort favoured by the Wicked Witch of the East. This stripy, waspish appearance has given the spider its name and is used as a defence mechanism to ward off predators who equate this colouration with being stung.

They're a relatively new resident in England. The first British Wasp Spider was found near Rye in 1922. Since then they have slowly spread across Sussex and you can find them in any areas of grassland. Here inside their long grass lair, they weave their silky circular webs which – like all spider webs – are a masterpiece of arachnoid architecture. As if proud of her accomplishment the Wasp Spider autographs her web with a unique silken squiggle. The actual purpose of this thick zigzag flourish (the 'stabilimentum') is a mystery; although some believe it reflects UV light, luring in pollinating insects who mistake the web for a flower.



Male Wasp Spiders don't have it easy. Physically they lack any snazzy patterning and at 5mm are a third of the size of their hulking female counterparts. And when it comes to spider sex, she dominates the male too. During mating she turns her lover into lunch. So, as the female lies enticingly in her web, the male approaches her with understandable trepidation. It's all about timing. After she slips out of her old exoskeleton and into something more comfortable, her fresh body is temporarily soft – and so are her jaws. This is her Achilles heel, an opportunity for the male to jump in, do his business and get out before being eaten. This sort of pressure would affect any fellas' performance, but the male Wasp Spider has a trick up his eight sleeves: he can detach his sexual organs, leave them inside the female and scarper.

I always assumed that jettisoning his genitalia allowed the spider to survive, but almost every mating session ends in death for the male. Scientists have found that after this self-imposed castration, the spider's sexual organs keep on fertilising the female and block other males' attempts at mating. The spider sacrifices his own life to save his member and ensure he becomes a father. Wow, what a way to go.



"Finally, we're still waiting for someone from last week's Parent & Toddler Group to come and claim this lost property..."



## IN THE HOT SEAT

Welcome to 'in the hot seat'. People who form part of St Peter's family discuss their work within the Parish and reveal a little more about themselves. In the interview chair is Clare Gage, wife of reverend Tim Gage.

*Role:* I run the Tea and Tots Toddler Group, with helpers. We meet in church at 9.30am on a Friday, term time, for fun, snacks, toys, songs Bible stories and craft etc, and currently have 17 toddlers and 14 parents/grandparents attending. I also support Tim, help care for my Dad and have the boys to look after. I lead Sunday School regularly. Biblically, I'm keen to help younger people and women grow in their faith.

*Length of time at St Peter's:* We came to the parish in May 2020, so just over four years.

*My journey to where I am now:* I grew up in Haywards Heath, the eldest of four children. My dad was a solicitor and mum undertook mainly unpaid roles and looking after us. They were both heavily involved in the church; dad was the organist and choir master and mum ran coffee mornings and visited elderly parishioners. Mum retrained as a teacher when my youngest brother was nine. They split up and both re-married; dad moved to Hassocks, and mum married a United Reformed Church minister.

I studied English literature and Spanish at Southampton University and as part of the four-year course, spent nine months living in Granada, Spain. I then did temp work so I could save money for my four-month trip around the world where I covered 11 countries, including the United States, Fiji, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong.

Upon my return I decided to do teacher training at Falmer and went on to work at St Wilfrid's CofE Primary school in Haywards Heath for four years. During my training I met Poppy, who is now a good friend. She was a Christian and very excited about her faith. She invited me along to her church All Saints Church, Lindfield, and after completing an Alpha course there, I felt re-energised, with a purpose and that God was calling me to go overseas and use my Spanish.

I'd already been to Bulgaria on a missionary trip, helping local children, and this gave me a taste of what I could do. With the help of the Church missions' team, I went to Peru and spent a year and a half as a missionary, mainly teaching pre-school children, aged four to six, in a remote mountain village – Canchakuta – which was an hour and a half away from the nearest city Huaraz.





It comprised mud huts and the little school and health post, and I lived with a Peruvian nurse for five days, and spent two days a week in Huaraz, worshipping at a church there and gathering supplies.

When back in the UK, I set up a sponsorship programme for the children in the community I supported, helping them with their education and future careers. There were 17 sponsors and I translated letters from Peru for them. By God's grace the programme lasted nearly 10 years.

I did some supply teaching at Northlands Wood primary academy, Haywards Heath, and ended up there for two years. I met Tim at All Saints - he was working in an admin role/doing photography and I asked him to help with my missionary presentation to the congregation.

We married in 2011 and Ben was born a year later. During this time Tim was going through the process of being called to the ministry, so we moved to Cambridge so he could study theology, mission and ministry.

I haven't done paid work since, but have enjoyed leading Bible study groups, toddler groups and Sunday School at the churches we've attended. I'm considering going back to paid teaching work at some stage.

*Best bits:* It's a real privilege to be part of this community with Tim, being alongside people through their everyday lives, joys and sadnesses. It's equally a joy seeing people getting to know God more. I love seeing the children having fun in a church setting and helping point people towards Jesus, who loves them most. I also enjoy worshipping with the church family, the singing, prayers and the liturgy that's used; it's familiar to me from when I was younger and is so rich in its language.

*Worst bits:* When I witness people turning away from God, it's so sad.

*Perks:* Living so near to the sea and having people pray for us and our family; it's a huge privilege. The love shown to us is very humbling.

*Biggest challenge:* Prioritising my time and dealing with admin.

*Interests outside the church:* I love reading, anything really, the classics, murder mysteries, biographies, Christian books and devotionals, The Bible of course. The last fiction books I particularly enjoyed were 'Phoebe' and re-reading 'Lord of the Rings'. I love swimming – in the sea or a pool. I also enjoy gardening, jogging (I try to go out two to three times a week), and playing the piano. Watching 'The Goes Wrong Show' makes me laugh hysterically!

*Looking ahead five years:* Hopefully we'll still be here - I feel very happy and settled. I'm also thinking of returning to teaching, but not totally sure. I spent the last half term going into Aldrington once a week, getting experience back in the classroom. Whatever I do, it is likely to be paid work involving children.

*Family and pets:* Ben, 12, Sammy 10, James three and a half, and three female guinea pigs: Martha, Phyllis and Bobbie – the latter two named after the Railway Children.

*Favourite foods:* Pasta arrabiata, pasta carbonara, veggie curry and every type of chocolate.

*Favourite drink:* Tea, tea and more tea!

*Favourite music:* Christian bands like 'City Alight' and a range of other music from Rachmaninoff to the Foo Fighters!

*Car:* We have a Volkswagen Touran.

*Fantasy car:* I'm not bothered about cars.



*Irritation:* People putting things next to the dishwasher, rather than in it, and when people spend more time moaning than being thankful.

*Greatest pleasure:* On the beach in the sunshine with a book, dipping in and out of the sea, with family or on my own.

*Outlook:* God helps me be more positive, thankful and joyful.

*Influences:* My mum Jill with her kindness, generosity and faith. Poppy, godmother to Sammy, her faith is a real inspiration, Pastor John Piper, an American theologian, I enjoy his sermons (and Tim's of course) I love Ruth from the Bible who is so faithful, humble and brave.

*Most admired:* Jesus, Tim and other wise Christian family and friends.

*You won't know this but:* I completed a sky dive in New Zealand, despite having a fear of heights.

## **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?**

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## PEOPLE AND PLACES IN THE BIBLE

Continuing with choosing people and places in the Bible that are in the Book of the Acts of the Apostles, the current subject of our Bible Study.

### Philip the Evangelist

Philip the Evangelist, not to be confused with Philip, the Apostle, holds a notable place in the history of the early Church. He is first introduced in the Acts of the Apostles as one of the seven deacons chosen by the apostles to ensure fair distribution of food and aid to the widows and the needy in the growing Christian community of Jerusalem (Acts 6:1-6). This appointment allowed the apostles to focus on prayer and preaching the word of God.

Full of faith and the Holy Spirit, Philip played a crucial role in spreading the Gospel beyond Jerusalem. After the martyrdom of Stephen, a fellow deacon, a great persecution arose, prompting Philip to travel to Samaria. There, he proclaimed the message of Christ, performing miracles that included casting out unclean spirits and healing the paralyzed and lame, bringing great joy to the city (Acts 8:4-8).

One significant episode during his time in Samaria was the conversion of Simon the Sorcerer. Initially, Simon was astounded by the miracles and became a believer. However, his true intentions were revealed when he attempted to buy the power of the Holy Spirit, earning a stern rebuke from Peter (Acts 8:9-24).

Philip's missionary journey took a pivotal turn when an angel of the Lord instructed him to travel south along the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza. There he encountered an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official under Queen Candace of Ethiopia, who was reading the book of Isaiah while returning from worship in Jerusalem. Philip approached the eunuch and offered to explain the scriptures. As they travelled together, Philip preached about Jesus. Upon finding water, the eunuch expressed his desire to be baptized. After Philip baptized him, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch continued his journey rejoicing (Acts 8:26-39).

Philip then appeared in Azotus and continued to preach the Gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea (Acts 8:40). Many years later, he is mentioned again when the Apostle Paul and his companions stayed at his house in Caesarea. By this time, Philip had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy (Acts 21:8-9).

Philip the Evangelist is remembered as a devoted and effective messenger of the Gospel, whose ministry was marked by divine guidance, miraculous acts, and significant conversions, profoundly impacting the early Christian community. According to Greek tradition, he became bishop of Tralles (modern Aydin, Turkey.).

## Samaria in the Bible

Samaria holds a significant place in the biblical story, representing both a region and a city with a rich and complex history. Initially, the land of Samaria was part of the Canaanite territory, inhabited by various Canaanite tribes before the arrival of the Israelites. Following the Exodus from Egypt and the subsequent conquest of Canaan under Joshua, the region was allocated to the tribe of Ephraim and the half-tribe of Manasseh, both of whom were descendants of Joseph (Joshua 16-17).

Samaria's central location made it a significant area for the Israelites. In the course of time, it became the site of Shechem, an important city of refuge and a place of covenant renewal where Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel to reaffirm their commitment to Yahweh (Joshua 24:1-28).

Around 880 BCE, King Omri of Israel purchased the hill of Samaria from Shemer and established the city, making it the capital of the northern kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 16:24). As the capital, Samaria became a centre of political power and culture. However, it was also a place where the Israelites often strayed from the worship of Yahweh, leading to numerous prophetic condemnations. The prophets Amos and Hosea, among others, spoke against the idolatry and social injustices prevalent in Samaria, warning of impending judgment.

In 722 BCE, Samaria fell to the Assyrians under King Shalmaneser V and his successor, Sargon II. The Assyrians captured the city after a prolonged siege, leading to the exile of many Israelites and the introduction of foreign peoples into the region. These new inhabitants intermarried with the remaining Israelites, resulting in a mixed population that would come to be known as the Samaritans. This group maintained a distinct identity, holding to a version of the Pentateuch and worshipping at Mount Gerizim rather than Jerusalem, which caused long-standing animosity with the Jews.

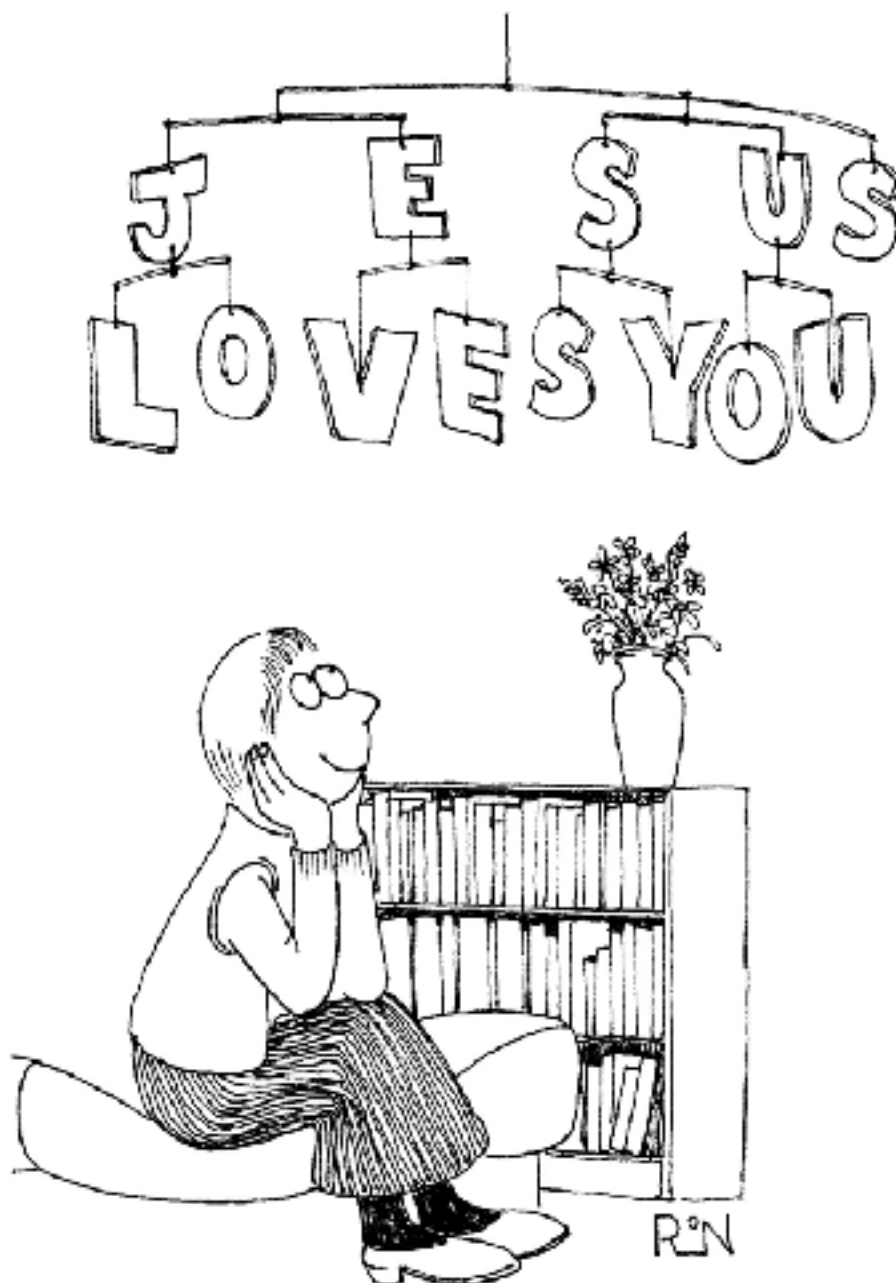
The New Testament also references Samaria, highlighting its significance in the ministry of Jesus and the early Church. One of the most well-known accounts is Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well (John 4:1-42). This meeting broke social and religious barriers, as Jesus offered her "living water," leading to many Samaritans believing in Him as the Messiah.



In the Acts of the Apostles, Samaria becomes a focal point of early Christian evangelism. Following the persecution in Jerusalem, Philip the Evangelist travelled to Samaria and proclaimed the Gospel. His ministry was marked by miraculous healings and exorcisms, leading to great joy in the city and many conversions (Acts 8:4-8). The account of Simon the Sorcerer, who tried to buy the power of the Holy Spirit, further underscores the spiritual awakening occurring in Samaria (Acts 8:9-24).

Compiled from various sources.

William Holden



*Wendy checked the message on her mobile*

# TWAM – TOOLS WITH A MISSION

**“The power of tools to transform lives and Turn Hardship into Hope”**

**WOW!** Our recent requests for used and unwanted tools and haberdashery were a remarkable success resulting in an enormous collection of tools and haberdashery being donated by many different people. We would like to thank everyone who responded to our pleas, it was just fantastic. Everything was gradually collected together and put on display in the community hall where we held an open coffee morning with John from TWAM coming along to talk to people and look at all we had collected.

Special thanks to Jane and Judith who kept the supplies of tea and coffee going. The next morning two representatives from the TWAM headquarters in Ipswich, Carl and Ann arrived to load all the donations into the TWAM van. They were both delightful and very impressed with our collections and expressed huge gratitude on behalf of TWAM. They assured us nothing would be wasted and that the shipments out to Africa really changed the lives there for so many people and stopped so much just being sent to landfill sites and polluting the earth.



We also received an email from John listing the contents of the last two recent shipments to Uganda and Zambia. We were astounded by this, it included:-



527 sewing machines, 110 Knitting machines

105 packs of saws, 54 sets of power tools

Various kits for electricians 51, carpentry 135, ground workers 26, builders 52, agricultural 45, haberdashery and knitting 127, and plumbers 36

10 welding machines, 6 lathes, rotovators, chainsaws etc.

25 Boxes of Bibles and 94 Computers and Laptops

Our collections will be part of future shipments to Africa and just think how many lives can be transformed by this amazing work.

We thank the Lord for bringing this to our attention and giving us the strength and resolve to play our small part in something so important and inspiring.

Gill and Michael Evans and Christine James

## 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;

Red Sanctuary Light	£	33.63
Communion wafers	£	29.28
Welcome packs and pens	£	103.79
Sunday School supplies	£	87.35
Hangleton Band at the Summer Fair	£	60.00
Annual fire extinguisher maintenance	£	140.94
New lead for the donation station	£	6.99
New shelves for Tea & Tots	£	164.00

### Thank you for your sponsorship

Our grateful thanks go to the people who wishing to remain anonymous, very kindly donated the cost of the Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt, a new lawn mower and two new carbon monoxide alarms for Church.

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.

# **Miles Gander Domestic Plumbing Services**

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***"BETTER PLUMBING BY MILES"***

## **THE VICTORIAN CHURCH - A TIME OF CHANGE IN THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY**

In my introduction to this series last month I stated that this is based on a series of sermons delivered at Evensong in 1974 but looking at my notes I am reminded that they were preached at the morning Eucharist as well as at Evensong.

This period in the history of the Church of England is pivotal in setting the shape of the church today. Also, the shape of society and its institutions. My main source of information was George Kitson Clark's *The Making of Victorian England*.

Having come to the next step that I had advertised, putting the article together I have found that I need to split it into two with the first part this month and the second next month.

### **The State of the Church in Relation to the People Part 1.**

As the Victorian era progressed, the Church of England found itself at a crossroads, challenged by the profound social transformation brought about by industrialization and urbanization. The relationship between the Church and its congregations evolved significantly during this period, influenced by a growing secularism and the rise of non-conformist religious groups. This article examines how the Church sought to remain relevant and responsive to the needs of an increasingly diverse and changing populace, focusing on its urban missions and adaptations in pastoral care.

The rapid growth of cities presented new challenges for the Church of England, which had historically been rooted in rural parishes. As people flocked to urban centres, the Church was confronted with the urgent need to minister to sprawling, densely populated areas where traditional pastoral approaches were no longer sufficient. The urban environment, characterized by poverty, overcrowding, and social dislocation, required a rethinking of how the Church approached its mission.

The 19th century witnessed a significant shift towards secularism, driven by scientific advancements and philosophical developments that questioned traditional religious views. Figures like Charles Darwin and philosophers such as John Stuart Mill contributed to a climate of scepticism and debate about religion's role in society. The Church of England responded by attempting to reconcile faith with scientific and intellectual developments, a task that involved both defending its doctrines and integrating new knowledge where possible.

Another significant challenge came from non-conformist religious groups, such as Methodists, Baptists, and Congregationalists, who were often more agile in addressing the needs of urban congregants. These groups typically offered more emotive and personal religious experiences, which appealed to many of the urban working class. The Church of England's response involved a dual strategy of emphasizing its historical and doctrinal continuity while also innovating its outreach and worship styles to connect better with urban populations.

To minister effectively to urban congregations, the Church established numerous urban missions. These missions were designed not only to meet spiritual needs but also to address social welfare concerns. They provided a range of services from education and healthcare to social aid and employment assistance, thus embodying a more holistic approach to pastoral care. Such initiatives were often spearheaded by dynamic figures within the Church who recognized the necessity of a practical faith that served the immediate needs of the people. More detail about this in Part 2 next month.

The Church also adapted its pastoral care to meet the diverse needs of its new urban congregants. This included the introduction of more flexible worship services, the establishment of community centres, and the active involvement of the laity in church activities. Clergy were increasingly trained to deal with the specific challenges of urban ministry, including addressing the concerns of immigrant populations and the working poor.

Throughout the Victorian era, the Church of England was compelled to transform its approach to remain relevant in a rapidly changing society. By engaging directly with the challenges of urbanization, competing religious movements, and growing secularism, the Church not only sought to maintain its influence but also to serve genuinely and support its congregations amidst the tumult of the times. This period of adaptation and challenge set the stage for ongoing discussions about the role of religion in modern society and highlighted the Church's capacity for resilience and reform in response to external pressures and internal debates.

This examination of the Church's evolving relationship with the people during the Victorian era provides a foundation for further exploration into how these changes impacted the Church's theological stances, internal dynamics, and societal roles.

Next Month in Part 2 I will go into more detail about the missions undertaken by the church.

William Holden



## **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

**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.**

**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.**

**Unseen**

A small girl greeting her father on his return from a journey by air and learning that he had flown above the clouds, asked if he had seen God. "Well, no," said her father, "you can't see God like that because He doesn't have a body."

"Oh," she said, with pity and disappointment, "only head and legs?"



## **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR GARDEN?**

- 1) Divide your herbaceous perennials. This will keep your plants healthy and vigorous year after year and multiply your stock. Plant and water in the new divisions well.
- 2) Plant spring flowering bulbs now, such as Daffodils, Crocus and Hyacinths.
- 3) Continue to feed and deadhead hanging basket and container annuals.
- 4) Keep deadheading annuals and perennials to extend their performance (e.g. Penstemons, Dahlias and Roses).
- 5) Prune any late summer flowering shrubs such as the Rock Rose (Helianthemum).
- 6) Prune Climbing Roses and Rambling Roses once they have finished flowering unless they are repeat flowering varieties in which case leave them until later in the year.
- 7) Keep Camelias and Rhododendrons well watered at this time of year to ensure the next year's buds develop well.
- 8) Clean out your greenhouse to reduce the risk of pests and diseases next year.
- 9) Blitz perennial weeds. They are more vulnerable to weed killers in the autumn.
- 10) Create a new lawn from turf or seed. Autumn weather is favourable for good lawn establishment.
- 11) Raise the height of your mower blades as grass growth slows down.
- 12) Feed your lawn with an autumn fertiliser which is rich in potassium and low in nitrogen.



## **COME INTO MY KITCHEN.....**

I hope you have enjoyed a lovely summer.

We welcome the start of the new season with a cheesecake topped with syrupy, tea-infused plums.

### **BAKED ALMOND CHEESECAKE WITH EARL GREY PLUMS**

SERVES 10

3tsp loose-leaf earl grey tea  
100g unsalted butter, plus extra for the tin  
150g almond biscuits or digestives

50g ground almonds  
25g flaked almonds

#### **CHEESECAKE**

900g full fat cream cheese at room temperature  
200g caster sugar  
3tbsps plain flour  
1tbsp vanilla extract

6 eggs  
100g soured cream  
1tbsp lemon juice

#### **EARL GREY PLUMS**

100g caster sugar  
1tbsp lemon juice  
3 plums, halved, stoned and sliced

Put 2tsp of tea in a heatproof bowl, cover with 150ml boiled water and leave to steep. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a small pan or in the microwave, stir in the remaining 1tsp of tea, remove from the heat. Leave to infuse for 5 minutes then strain out the tea. Bash the biscuits in a bowl using the end of a rolling pin, then stir in the ground almonds, earl grey butter and flaked almonds.

Butter a 23cm springform tin and line the base with baking paper. Tip in the biscuit mixture and press down using a spatula. Chill while you prepare the filling. Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/ gas 4.

Strain the tea. Put the cheese in a bowl and beat until smooth. Add the remaining cheesecake ingredients and 2tbsp of the tea (reserving the rest for the plums), and mix briefly until smooth. Tip the filling into the tin over the biscuit base. Wrap the base and sides of the tin in a double layer of foil then transfer to a large baking dish or tray. Half fill the dish with hot water then transfer to the middle shelf of the oven.

Bake for 45-55 minutes until the filling is set with a slight wobble in the middle. Turn off the oven and leave the cheesecake to cool inside for 2 hours with the oven door ajar. Transfer the tin to the fridge and chill overnight.

For the plums, put the reserved tea in a pan with the sugar and lemon juice. Simmer over a low heat for 6-8 mins or until syrupy, then toss in the plum slices. Remove from the heat and leave to cool.

When ready to serve, slice the cheesecake using a knife dipped in hot water and top with the syrupy plums.

## **PORK, CIDER AND APPLE CASSEROLE**

SERVES 6

Olive oil

1kg pork shoulder, fat trimmed and cut into chunks

2 onions, sliced

1 garlic clove, crushed

3 carrots, chopped

3 celery sticks, chopped

500ml dry cider

200ml chicken stock

3 small eating apples, each cored and cut into 8 wedges

25g butter

2tsp Dijon mustard

4tbsp double cream

1tbsp chopped parsley

1tbsp chopped sage

Heat the oven to 170C/150C fan/gas3. Heat 1 tbsp of oil in a large casseroles dish. Season the pork well then brown all over in batches, removing to a plate as you go.

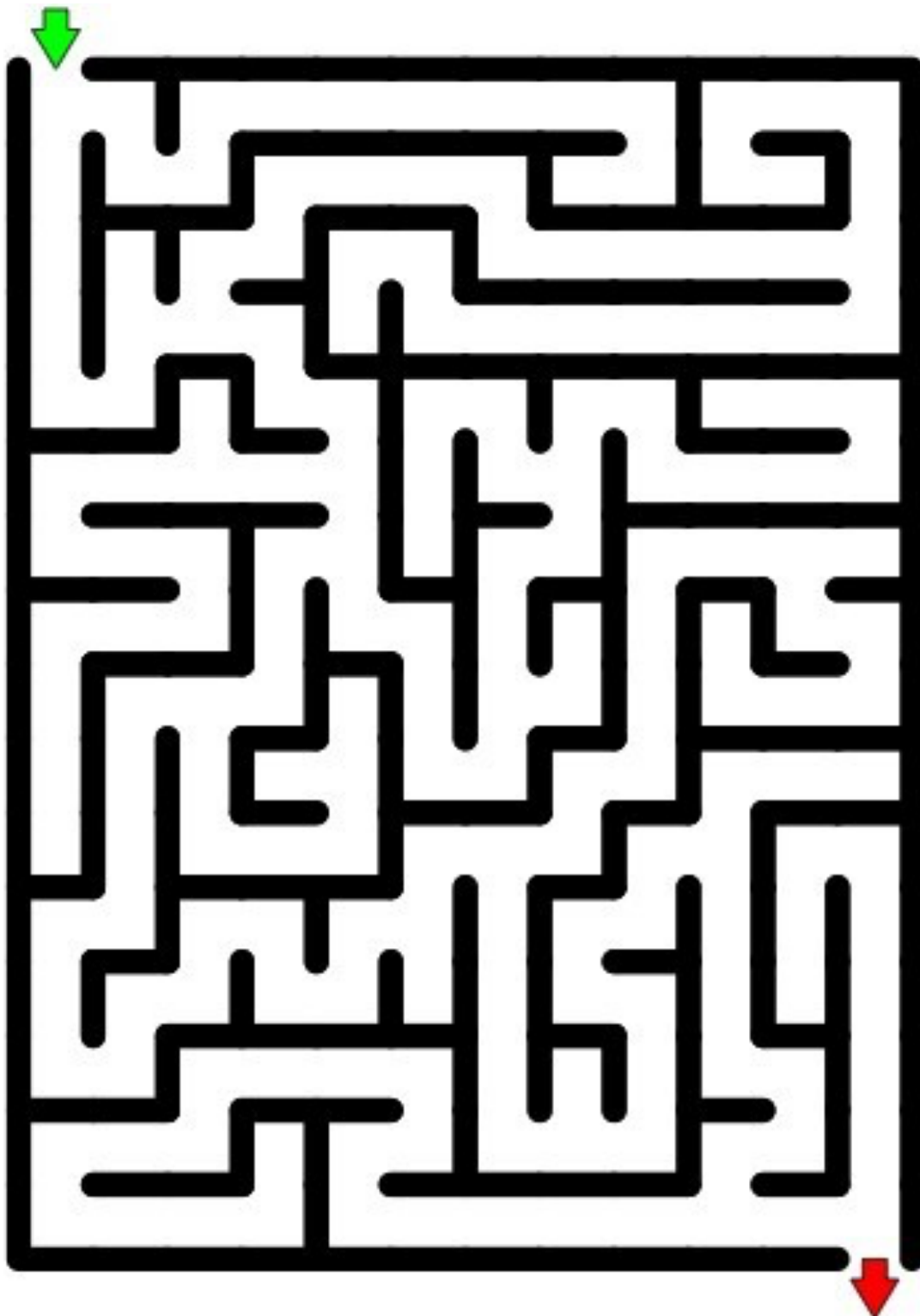
Once the pork is cooked, add the onions to the pot and cook for 20mins until soft and golden. Add the garlic and cook for 1 min then add the vegetables and cook, stirring for a further 5 mins.

Return the pork to the casserole dish and pour in the cider and stock. Cover and put in the oven for 1hr 30mins – 2 hours or until the pork is tender.

Meanwhile, fry the apple wedges in the butter until lightly golden. Take the casserole out of the oven and stir in the apples, mustard and cream. Return to the oven for 30mins. Stir through the herbs just before serving with creamy mash.

I do hope you enjoy these recipes.

Maggie





***The Parish Church of St. Peter  
West Blatchington***

## **FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES**

**Our afternoon concert series continues with**

**Simon Madge and Katy Friese-Green  
Baritone and Piano  
‘Mozart to Musicals’  
1.10 p.m. on Saturday 21st September**

**The Recitals are for approximately 40 minutes**

**Refreshments provided.**

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

**All welcome!**



## SEPTEMBER FESTIVALS AND SEASONS

I have chosen Allen Gardiner as he is an example of the religious zeal that was part of the ethos of the Victorian era and links with my series on the Victorian church.

### **6<sup>th</sup> September – Allen Gardiner - Missionary**

Allen Francis Gardiner was born on June 28, 1794, in Basildon, Berkshire, England. He was the son of Samuel Gardiner, a gentleman farmer, and Mary Boddam. His upbringing in a devout Christian household laid the foundation for his strong religious convictions and later missionary zeal.

Gardiner joined the Royal Navy at the age of fourteen. His naval career spanned several years, during which he travelled extensively and gained significant experience. He saw action in various parts of the world, including the Far East, and was promoted through the ranks. Despite his promising career, Gardiner felt a growing spiritual calling that led him to leave the Navy in 1826.

Allen Gardiner married Julia Susannah Reade in 1823, and the couple had six children together. Julia was a supportive partner in Gardiner's missionary ambitions. Tragically, Julia died in 1834, a loss that deeply affected Gardiner.

Two years later, in 1836, Gardiner married Elizabeth Lydia Garrard. Elizabeth accompanied him on some of his missionary endeavours, including their journey to South Africa, showing remarkable dedication to his mission, and sharing in his hardships.

Gardiner's spiritual transformation in the 1820s prompted him to dedicate his life to missionary activities. He was deeply moved by the plight of Indigenous peoples and the lack of Christian outreach in remote areas. His missionary journey was marked by several notable efforts:

1. **South Africa (1834-1838):** Gardiner attempted to establish a mission among the Zulus. Elizabeth joined him on this mission, enduring the challenges of political instability and logistical difficulties alongside him.
2. **South America (1838-1841):** He travelled through Chile and Bolivia, trying to reach Indigenous tribes. Despite encountering resistance and harsh conditions, he persevered.

3. **Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego (1842-1851):** Gardiner's most ambitious and ultimately tragic mission was to the Indigenous peoples of Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. He and his small team faced extreme weather, isolation, and a lack of supplies.

In 1850, Gardiner and his team set out for Tierra del Fuego with the hope of establishing a permanent mission. Stranded and unable to secure necessary resources, the group succumbed to starvation and exposure in 1851. Gardiner's journals and letters, discovered later, revealed his unwavering faith and dedication despite the dire circumstances.

Allen Gardiner's death spurred increased missionary activity in South America. His story inspired the formation of the Patagonian Missionary Society, later known as the South American Missionary Society (SAMS), which continued his work and achieved notable success.

Gardiner is remembered for his missionary zeal and his sacrifice. His legacy is a testament to the challenges faced by missionaries during the Victorian era and the impact of their work on global Christianity.

Allen Gardiner is commemorated in the Anglican Lectionary on September 6th. This day serves as a reminder of his dedication and the ultimate sacrifice he made in the pursuit of his missionary calling.

Drawn from various sources.

William Holden

**But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.**

**1 Corinthians 15:10**

## **MONEY MATTERS - Figures for June 2024**

### **Receipts**

Planned Giving	£ 3,485
Community Centre Income	£ 1,327
Payaz Donation Station/Sundry Donations	£ 464
Collections/Other giving	£ 53
Keynotes	£ 100
Fundraising	£ 2,663
PCC fees	£ 100
Investment income	£ 1,284
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£ 9,476</b>

### **Payments**

Parish Contribution	£ 6,651
Salaries	£ 800
Utilities and Insurance	£ 344
Rectory	£ 341
Community Centre running costs	£ 260
SumUp/Bank Charges	£ 13
Printing costs	£ 645
Church running expenses	£ 1,104
Fundraising expenses	£ 145
Funds sent to charity	£ 110
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£ 10,413</b>

**Year to date deficit : £8,431**

## **MONEY MATTERS - Figures for July 2024**

### **Receipts**

Planned Giving	£ 3,715
Community Centre Income	£ 1,647
Payaz Donation Station/Sundry Donations	£ 378
Collections/Other giving	£ 172
Fundraising	£ 527
PCC fees	£ 363
Income tax recovered	£ 1,465
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>£ 8,267</b>

### **Payments**

Parish Contribution	£ 6,651
Salaries	£ 839
Utilities and Insurance	£ 328
Rectory	£ 341
Community Centre running costs	£ 269
SumUp/Bank Charges	£ 11
Church running expenses	£ 51
PCC expenses	£ 68
Funds sent to charity	£ 130
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>	<b>£ 8,688</b>

**Year to date deficit : £8,821**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading, Commemorations &amp; Intentions</b> Calendar for September (Year B)
<b>SUN</b> <b>1<sup>ST</sup></b>	<b>14th Sunday after Trinity Deuteronomy 4. 1-2, 6-9</b> <b>James 1. 17-end Mark 7. 1-8, 14-15, 21-23</b>
<b>MON</b> <b>2<sup>ND</sup></b>	All families returning from holiday
<b>TUES</b> <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	More people to be called to vocations in the Church
<b>WEDS</b> <b>4<sup>TH</sup></b>	All children returning or starting School
<b>THURS</b> <b>5<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our understanding of our faith
<b>FRI</b> <b>6<sup>TH</sup></b>	All fathers
<b>SAT</b> <b>7<sup>TH</sup></b>	Rev Tim and family
<b>SUN</b> <b>8<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>15th Sunday after Trinity Isiah 35. 4-7a</b> <b>James 2. 1-10, 14-17 Mark 7. 24-end</b>
<b>MON</b> <b>9<sup>TH</sup></b>	The city council
<b>TUES</b> <b>10<sup>TH</sup></b>	All mothers
<b>WEDS</b> <b>11<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our cathedrals and their witness
<b>THURS</b> <b>12<sup>TH</sup></b>	Rev Jan and family
<b>FRI</b> <b>13<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our Churchwardens and PCC
<b>SAT</b> <b>14<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our Lord's suffering
<b>SUN</b> <b>15<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>16th Sunday after Trinity Isaiah 50. 4-9a</b> <b>James 3. 1-12 Mark 8. 27-end</b>

<b>MON 16<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our Archdeacons
<b>TUES 17<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our worship at St Peter's
<b>WEDS 18<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our worship in church
<b>THURS 19<sup>TH</sup></b>	All church musicians
<b>FRI 20<sup>TH</sup></b>	Bishop Martin
<b>SAT 21<sup>ST</sup></b>	Our Bible reading
<b>SUN 22<sup>ND</sup></b>	<b>17th Sunday after Trinity Jeremiah 11. 18-20 James 3. 13- 4.3 7-8a Mark 9. 30-37</b>
<b>MON 23<sup>RD</sup></b>	All Deanery Synod Members
<b>TUES 24<sup>TH</sup></b>	Bible study groups
<b>WEDS 25<sup>TH</sup></b>	All Diocesan Synod members
<b>THURS 26<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our understanding of our faith
<b>FRI 27<sup>TH</sup></b>	Food Banks
<b>SAT 28<sup>TH</sup></b>	Our lay ministers of communion
<b>SUN 29<sup>TH</sup></b>	<b>18th Sunday after Trinity Numbers 11. 4-6, 10-16, 24-29 James 5. 13-end Mark 9. 38-end</b>
<b>MON 30<sup>TH</sup></b>	Hospital Chaplains

And finally.....

### **Prayer for September 2024**

Lord, here we are in September – a beautiful month at the end of the summer, but before the autumn has taken hold. A month of excitement and new starts for many, a month when courage is needed for our children and young people.

And Lord we pray for courage, compassion and integrity for our new Prime Minister and our new government. We pray for justice and peace in our country and in the world.

Help us Lord, to know that you are Lord of September; you are Lord and giver of every new month, every new day, every new minute. Help us to put our trust in you for our adventures and for our mundane everyday routines.

You are our generous, loving Father and promise that you will never leave us or forsake us when we trust in you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Amen.

By Daphne Kitching











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