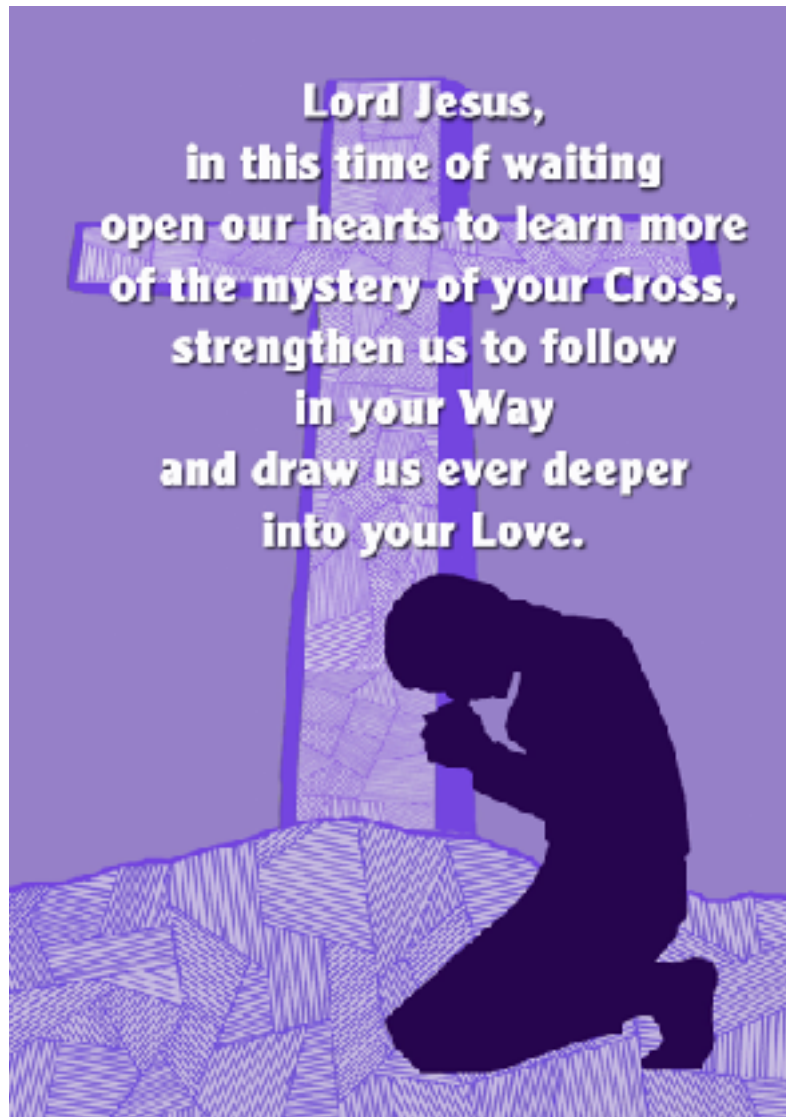


KEYNOTES



March 2022

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ST PETER'S, WEST BLATCHINGTON**

Rector **The Reverend Tim Gage**
The Rectory
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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 **Jan Butter** **Tel: 07889 400889**
Email: westblatchingtoncurate@outlook.com

CHURCHWARDENS **Jonathan Cooke** **Tel: 563178**
 David Keeling **Tel: 501504**

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

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EDITORIAL

What a difference a year makes. Last year we were still not back at church and social events were limited. Now we are free of restrictions and relying on the protection of our vaccinations. Lateral testing is part of life and self-isolation something we have to endure when the test is positive. Despite this there is a new form of normality with a mix of live and Zoom events or meetings.

In his sermons recently Tim has stressed the importance of keeping the St Peter's Mission Action Plan before us. It is not a paper exercise but one where we all can participate in different ways in living our faith. Some of us will have been participating in the 'Great is Thy Faithfulness' project, Bible Study or supporting other aspects of the life of St Peter's. Each one of us has a calling to serve God using the gifts he has given us and there is always something to learn whatever our age.

Lent begins on 2nd March, Ash Wednesday, so please sign up for the Lent course, details of which are elsewhere in this issue of Keynotes.

Our Annual Church Meeting is on Sunday 10th April, Palm Sunday, immediately following the service. If you are not on the Electoral Roll, please sign up as this gives you a right to vote at this meeting. Also, the numbers we have on the Electoral Roll impact upon the number of representatives we can have on the Deanery Synod. Forms can be obtained from the Electoral Roll Officer, Pam Miles.

Editorial Committee

**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.
Psalm 19.14**



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Hereafter

The minister came to see me the other day. He said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do it all the time. No matter where I am – in the bedroom, upstairs, in the kitchen, or down in the basement – I ask myself, 'Now, what am I here after?'"

Rector's Ramblings

Recently I've been reading a book called *Walking with God through Pain and Suffering*, by the American writer Tim Keller, described by some as the C.S. Lewis of our age. All of us experience pain and undergo suffering, whether it is physical, emotional or mental. Perhaps at this point, your pain and suffering is particularly acute. But alongside the experience of suffering, we are often left grappling with how we think about it too. Is it fair? One of the most common accusations against the Christian faith is: 'How you can believe in a God of Love when there is so much suffering in the world?' Perhaps you have wrestled with this question yourself. This isn't a new question for people of faith, in fact in the book of Job in the Bible we have a whole book compiling one man's struggle with reconciling the suffering he has experienced with faith in God.

In his book, Keller highlights how the Christian perspective on suffering differs from other world views in several ways. In our secular Western culture, Keller writes: "suffering is never seen as a meaningful part of life but only as an interruption." It is something that we must avoid at any cost." He continues: "Christianity teaches that contra fatalism, suffering is overwhelming; contra Buddhism, suffering is real; contra karma, suffering is often unfair; but contra secularism, suffering is meaningful. There is a purpose to it, and if faced rightly, it can drive us like a nail deep into the love of God and into more stability and spiritual power than you can imagine."[\[1\]](#)

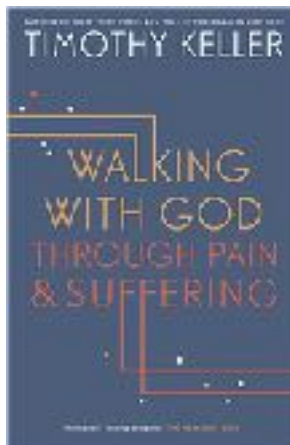
Yet this is not just all hypothetical, but rooted and demonstrated in the life of Jesus Christ the God-man. I encourage you this Lent as we prepare to hear again the story of Jesus' passion that you would allow yourself to see the suffering and pain which he went through (to unimaginable degrees) for us. And to see how his suffering is not unfortunate or useless but of infinite worth to us. In the book one interviewee who was a Christian but ended up losing his livelihood, family and home put it like this:

"You don't really know Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have."[\[2\]](#)

So whether you are wrestling with suffering from a philosophical angle or whether it is something you are experiencing in the here and now I hope you will take this truth to heart.

With every blessing

Rev Tim Gage
Rector



Walking with God through Pain and Suffering by Timothy Keller is available from Books Alive, Elm Drive, Hove

[1] P.30, Walking with God through pain and suffering, Timothy Keller, Hodder & Stoughton, 2013

[2] P.5, ibid

Jesus said, 'those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.'
John 4 v 14

Curate's Corner

10 Tools for Bible brilliance!

Studying the Bible can be tricky, remembering bits of it even trickier. But we know that we all need to get to know it better because God's Word to us is alive and active (Hebrews 4:12) and God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible helps us to remember that our story is actually part of God's story.

Here are ten phone apps, programmes or resources that might help you as you seek to know God better through His Word:

- **YouVersion** app is a comprehensive Bible app comprising reading plans, videos and Bible translations (and languages too) [Find it in your phone app store, or access it at [Bible.com](https://www.bible.com)]
- **The Bible Society** website: Info about the different Bible translations, a glossary of challenging words, and even in 2022 they're launching a personal version of their Bible Course [Google 'Bible Society translations' and explore the site]
- **Bible memorisation app**: there are several. I use Bible Memory Verses app by Great Commission Software. It's free, but an older app. There are others, free and paid. [Search 'Bible memory' in your phone's app store search bar]
- **Audio Bibles apps** - listen to God's word on the go! I'm surprised the things I hear that I don't always see when reading. David Suchet's NIV Audio Bible is worth the money. [Search 'audio bible' on phone app stores]
- **Scripture in the original language**: Notice a difference in words between Bible translations? Check out the words in the original language. [Google your verse with 'interlinear', e.g. 'John 3:16 interlinear'. [Biblehub.com](https://www.biblehub.com) is a good site too that lets you learn more about the original Greek and Hebrew words]
- **BibleProject Videos** on YouTube. Animated summaries of each Bible book and key themes. [<https://www.youtube.com/c/bibleproject>]
- **Bible podcasts** - there are loads - search for the best though. BibleProject do some. Also check out 'Bible Books in 30 Minutes' by UCB.

- **Church of England apps** - 'Daily Prayer' (that contain daily Bible readings), 'Lectionary' app and 'Reflections' a (paid for) Daily Bible study app that follows the Lectionary. [Search Church of England in your app store]
- **Books Alive** shop in Hove. Upstairs there are walls of second hand books, Bible commentaries, Bible versions and so much more. Often for between £3 and £5. Go and have a browse and support a local business.
- **Bible Commentaries** - Expert thoughts on what the writers meant. Available online (free = Biblehub.com, Biblegateway.com, paid logos.com) or from your local bookstore.

There are lots of great daily Bible studies too in print and online. Hopefully this list will give you some more tools to really understand and learn to love this 'lamp to our feet and light to our path' (Psalm 119:105).

Rev. Jan Butter

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

The Bible was originally written in: **HEBREW, ARAMAIC, and GREEK.**

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- ▶ **THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT**
Prioritizing clarity and understanding of the meaning of the original language without sacrificing accuracy.

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Common English Bible
Contemporary English Version
Easy-to-Read Version
Evangelical Heritage Version
English Standard Version
God's Word
Good News Translation
International Children's Bible
International Standard Version
King James Version
The Living Bible

The Message
Modern English Version
New American Bible (Revised Edition)
New American Standard Bible
New Century Version
New English Translation
New International Reader's Version
New International Version
New King James Version
New Living Translation
New Revised Standard Version
Revised Standard Version
The Voice

Bible translations represented in this spectrum by their abbreviations are available for reading on Bible Gateway

WORD-FOR-WORD | **THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT**

INTERLINEAR | NASB | AMP | ESV | RSV | NKJV | NRSV | NET | NIV | GW | ISV | NCV/ICB | NLT | CEB | NIV | ERV | LIVING | MSG | VOICE

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WOMEN'S SOCIAL

With restrictions gradually being lifted, we have been delighted to return to our programme of events. The coffee morning at Pam Miles' was well attended and much enjoyed. Thank you to Pam and Carol for welcoming us. A particular thank you to Pam for her delicious Boiled Fruit Cake – see Come Into My Kitchen this month!

On 10th March we will be holding our AGM – venue to be confirmed and on the 24th March we will be enjoying a Lent Lunch at Maggie Holden's home.

Maggie Keeling



...I haven't the heart to tell her the bishop went home 20 minutes ago!

Our charity for March

The Salvation Army



Giving
Hope
Today

The Salvation Army is a worldwide evangelical Christian church. Their mission is based on faith in Jesus Christ who wants everyone to experience life in all its fullness

They provide practical help for people in need, defend those who are vulnerable and abused, and fight against injustice. The services they provide are diverse, reflecting the needs of the communities they serve.

They work nationally and in **local communities** through their 650 churches and community centres throughout the UK and Ireland, to serve those who most need help. They work with decision makers to ensure the views of vulnerable people are heard. They also support international development projects

Please support them.

Donation boxes are held at the back of Church.

Notes from the PCC Meeting held on 25/01/2022

The PCC meeting was held in the Community Centre and Mandy opened it with a prayer.

We discussed our Mission Action Plan which is split into 4 sections, :- More Open, More Generous, More Engaged, More Converted

It was decided to have Champions to take on each section and run with it, Rev Tim will have sermons on each to engage the congregation more.

The Audio Visual System has not progressed so far.

Rev Tim wants to hold a church walkaround and tidy.

Tea And Tots – Clare and Sophie(From St Anthony's) have started a group on a Friday morning in the meeting room. The wall boards have been decorated and toys provided. 7 Children with parents attended the first session.

11-18's – Rev Tim would like to invite parents of children of the appropriate age to the rectory to discuss what might be possible.

Web Site – Paul is still looking into this as changes are needed and updates are required.

Masks – these are no longer mandatory in places of worship but it was decided to encourage people to wear them but it is now a personal choice.

Heating – the heating systems in the church and hall have been serviced.

The Lightening detector has also been serviced.

The gate – should be repaired on site within the next month.

Ian – has been working in the community centre fitting new sockets which means the fridges will not be turned off in error and both kettles can easily be used.

Rev Jan has fitted a key safe to hold a full set of keys.

Jonathan reported that the Foodbank needs more volunteers and a trustee.

Mandy suggested a sponsored litter pick.

David reminded us about the on line quiz, 40 people signed up so far.

Rev Jan closed the meeting with a prayer.

Prayer List Requests

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

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

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

The date of the next Wednesday Prayer Service will be on the Pew Sheet.

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.

Jesus said, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Mark 8.34



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HANGLETON AND WEST BLATCHINGTON FOODBANK

REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Hangleton and West Blatchington Foodbank (Registered Charity Number 1171532) is a project that is sponsored jointly by St Peter's CofE and St George's RC Churches in West Blatchington. Despite the pandemic our dedicated team of volunteers continues to work tirelessly to support local families in food poverty. Applications from clients for food parcels have, in recent months, numbered between 25 to 30 per week.

With the easing of Covid restrictions we are pleased to have been able to welcome back those of our volunteers who had been in a "Covid-vulnerable" category, such as people over the age of 70.

We are still short of volunteers and would welcome anyone who feels that they can spend a few hours helping out

This would be on a Wednesday between 10.30 and 2.30, once or twice a month.

Anyone who thinks they might be interested is invited to telephone Anna Wiggs, our Coordinator, by calling her on **07990 631892** or emailing info@hangletonfoodbank.org.uk.



My passion for the Passion or The Three Days of the Paschal Triduum

The Easter **Triduum**, or Paschal **Triduum**, or The Three Days, is the holiest celebration of the liturgical year; that begins with the liturgy on the evening of Maundy Thursday, reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, and closes with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.

1. Holy Thursday: Celebration of the Mass of the Lord's Supper.
2. Good Friday: Commemoration of Christ's Passion and Death.
3. Holy Saturday: Preparation for the Resurrection of the Lord.
4. Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of Christ.

The Paschal Triduum, (or the three days in Holy week), these are not words I usually say, but when asked a question on a course I'm attending at the moment – called "Great is thy faithfulness", What is something that you are really passionate about? I said that I was passionate about Holy Week, and especially the smaller services, that is – Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil, on Saturday evening or early Sunday Morning. I said that I was sad that a lot of these services are not very well attended and I wanted to share with everyone that as we are an Easter Faith, these are the most beautiful services of the year, and that we should attend them. Not because the Rector (or Priest covering these services during an interregnum) puts so much effort into them, but because we will get so much out of them.

Over the 33 years that I have been at St.Peter's Church, West Blatchington, I have tried to attend these 3 services and found something different each time. Maybe the first time you have your foot washed on Maundy Thursday, or try to stay awake for half an hour during the watch at 11.30 pm till Midnight, while looking at a candle or praying for your family, or looking at the beautiful flower display on the altar. Then you come out into the cold night air and look at the Windmill in the moonlight, or you watch children from our Sunday School follow their first Stations of the Cross around the Churchyard. Or you attend the Good Friday Liturgy and hear readers recalling Jesus's last day from St.John's Gospel. Or you stay up late on Saturday evening, or get up early on Sunday morning and see the fire lit outside the Church and the servers encouraging us all to light our Candle and bring it into the dark

Church and light it up, and sing songs of Joy, because of the Resurrection of our Lord.

Whatever you get from these services, I can assure you that it enters your soul and stays with you throughout the year, and that you will not regret taking the time to coming along, and find out the true meaning of Holy Week.

Thanks for the opportunity for letting me share my passion with you,

Much love from Zanita.

The Vernal Equinox

In the season of the Spring
The day is equal to the night;
Summer's song we soon shall sing!
Evenings filled with summer light!

Winter's cares seem long ago
Mornings spiked by bitter frost
But we shall bask in summer glow
For the seasons have now crossed.

Thank you, Lord God, for the Spring
And for all the seasons, too,
Of life's rhythms we shall sing
Giving all the praise to You.

By Nigel Beeton

Wordsearch for March

March brings us Lent and Mothering Sunday. Lent is a time of spiritual self-assessment as we prepare for Easter. It is a time to turn to God, and grow closer to him. Mothering Sunday reminds us of not only the mothers that have loved and raised us, but of Mother Church, who has spiritually loved and nurtured us throughout our Christian pilgrimage. How many words can you find on these themes in this month's Word Search?

lent	repentance
spiritual	seeking
easter	finding
preparation	growing
fasting	mothers
prayer	love
desert	care
selfdenial	nurture
learning	flowers
teaching	thankyou
disciples	nursing
worldwide	family

e e f e p d n t l y r l g p i
l c r t r r y f a m i l y n u
a a n e e i a g i e t e n u h
c g u a d s h y n n e i i r e
u s n t t i o r e i d w r s i
o t n i i n w l d r n i t i t
y r n r h r e d f w n r n n t
k g d i s c i p l e s g a g u
n o i t a r a p e r p r k e f
a g g n i k e e s r o o r r l
h l n t k t a h t i e w t u o
t a h r i y s e t h l i n t w
a o e l e l t i a o c n a r e
t i i p t r e e v l m g d u r
p i l d e t r e s e d m f n s

**He said, 'Abba,*Father, for you all things are possible;
remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you
want.' Mark 14.36**

Nuthatch: the bird table buccaneer by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

Back garden birdwatchers know there's a pecking order on the peanut feeder. Coal Tits are elbowed out by Blue Tits who in turn are ousted by Great Tits. But when the Nuthatch shows up, everything scarpers. With its streamlined body, blue back, pink chest and black eye-stripe, the Nuthatch cuts a dynamic figure; a swashbuckling, bird table buccaneer. The weapon it wields is a stout, dagger-like beak but it's not designed for skewering birds. Nuthatches are nuts about nuts.

The Nuthatch's name comes from 'nut hacker' in reference to the bird's habit of jamming hazelnuts and acorns into tree crevices and then using its powerful bill to noisily smash them open. There's an old Sussex name which fits this manic, intense bird perfectly: Nutjobber. I have never seen this nutty little bird sitting still. They're so crazy about climbing that they're the only British bird that can actually climb headfirst down a tree.

At this time of year our garden birds become more vocal and aggressive as they claim and defend territories and croon their tunes to attract a mate. Spring lacks this urgency for the male Nuthatch. He hasn't stopped fighting all winter as he angrily defends his hectare of woodland. Nuthatches are monogamous too and the loyal pair soon dispense with spring serenades and get down to the hard work of making a home. Many birds start from scratch. Twigs and moss are laboriously collected and nests are painstakingly woven. Nuthatches however are happy to let someone else undertake the heavy construction work. Their residence of choice is a spacious tree cavity drilled and abandoned by a woodpecker. Sure, it needs a bit of work but the Nuthatches will make do and mend. The main problem is the front door. It's too big. This gaping hole can let in predators or Starling squatters who will happily turf out nesting Nuthatches. So while the male keeps guard the female Nuthatch starts bricking up the entrance hole. Her bill is used like a plasterer's trowel to smear mouthfuls of mud until the terracotta porch is perfectly Nuthatch sized. She is a compulsive builder and if they move into a nestbox she still cannot resist plastering mud around the hole, even if it's already the right size.

And it's great to report on a bird that's actually increasing in number and range. Once restricted to south-east England, the Nuthatch now

breeds in Scotland – probably assisted by the provision of garden peanut feeders as it marched north. And as Britain seemingly gets crazier by the day it's nice to know there's still space for a few more Nutjobbers.



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People and Places of the Bible

The Letter to the Hebrews is now the subject of our Bible Study so in the coming months I will focus on people and places mentioned in Hebrews.

The Author of Hebrews

Who is this person? However, although his name is not known, much can be discerned as to the type of person he was and where he probably lived. There is a lot we can know about the writer; first, and most important, he was a Jew. Secondly, he was well educated, writing in excellent Greek and since his Old Testament quotations came from the LXX version, the Septuagint, he was probably resident in Alexandria, see item below on the significance of this.

These particular facts have led to scholars speculating mainly on two people as possible authors of Hebrews, Barnabas and Apollos.

Before 1800 the church generally accepted that Paul was the author as stated in the heading in the Authorised version of the Bible. However, with Biblical criticism becoming more fashionable with careful studies of documents, their origin and the style and vocabulary doubts arose.

The first objection had been that the Greek was that of a Greek speaking scholar. This was overcome by saying that Hebrews was a sermon by Paul, hence no opening greeting, translated by Luke, a fluent Greek speaking educated person. However, the seeds of doubt are sown by Old Testament quotations coming from the Septuagint and not the Hebrew Bible. Also, going back in Church history both John Calvin and Martin Luther doubted Paul's authorship. Even earlier in the fourth century we have historian Eusebius writing that the Church did not believe Paul to be the author.

Let us then look at the two, Barnabas and Apollos.

Barnabas

The church father Tertullian (AD 160? – 220?) mentioned that Barnabas, Paul's travelling companion on his first mission to the Gentiles, authored Hebrews (Pud. 20). The association of Barnabas with the book of Hebrews may be because he was described as a

“son of encouragement” (Acts 4:36), and Hebrews 13:22 describes the letter as a word of encouragement (or exhortation). Moreover, Barnabas is referred to as an “apostle” (Acts 14:14) and, being a Levite (Acts 4:36), would have had the interest in and knowledge about the priesthood that forms such a dominant theme in Hebrews.

Apollos

Here’s what we know about Apollos from the Bible:

- He was from Alexandria and travelled in the Apostle Paul’s orbit (Acts 18:24).
- He was taught by Paul’s companions, Priscilla and Aquila (Acts 18:24 – 28),
- Paul knew Apollos personally, and encouraged him in his ministry (1 Cor. 16:12).
- He was a highly educated Alexandrian who would have been schooled in the literary style exemplified by Hebrews.
- Moreover, as a Jewish believer (Acts 18:24), he had the thorough knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures in their Greek version that the book of Hebrews exclusively uses.
- Apollos was a great defender of the Christian faith, vigorously refuting the opposing Jews in public debate and proving from the Old Testament that Jesus was the Messiah (Acts 18:28).
- He eventually became as influential as the apostles Paul and Peter (1 Cor. 1:12; 3:4 – 6, 22; 4:6; 16:12).

We also know from the very early history of the church that Apollos would also fit the memory handed down to both Clement of Alexandria (c. AD 150 – 215) and to Origen (AD 185 – 253), who claimed a Pauline association. Origen also recognised that Paul himself probably did not write Hebrews.

For these reasons, Apollos of Alexandria has been a leading contender for the authorship of Hebrews at least as far back as the great Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther.

Other names have been mentioned as possible authors, Timothy, Clement, and even a woman, Priscilla, but we do not know. What is certain is that whoever the writer was the Holy Spirit moved them to write this important contribution to Christianity.

Alexandria

A city in Lower Egypt, situated between the Mediterranean Sea and the lake Mareotis, not far from the most westerly mouth of the Nile. It

was founded by Alexander the Great, B. C. 332, and peopled by colonies of Greeks and Jews. Alexandria rose rapidly to a state of prosperity, becoming the centre of commercial trade between the East and the West, and in process of time was, in point both magnitude and wealth, second only to Rome itself.

Upon the death of Alexander, whose body was deposited in this new city, Alexandria became the regal capital of Egypt, under the Ptolemies, and rose to its highest splendour. During the reign of the first three princes of this name, its glory was at the highest. The most celebrated philosophers from the East, as well as from Greece and Rome, resorted there for instruction; and eminent men, in every department of knowledge, were found within its walls. Ptolemy Soter, the first of that line of kings, formed the museum, the library of 700,000 volumes, and several other splendid works. At the death of Cleopatra, B. C. 26, Alexandria passed into the hands of the Romans; and after having enjoyed the highest fame for upwards of a thousand years, it submitted to the arms of the Caliph Pmar, A. D. 646.

Apollos, eloquent and mighty in the Scriptures, was a native of this city (Acts 18:24). Many Jews from Alexandria were in Jerusalem, where they had a synagogue (Acts 6:9), at the time of Stephen's martyrdom. At one time it is said that as many as 10,000 Jews resided in this city. It possessed a famous library of 700,000 volumes, which was burned by the Saracens. It was here that the Hebrew Bible was translated into Greek. This is called the Septuagint version, from the tradition that seventy learned men were engaged in executing it. However, it was not all translated at one time. It was begun B.C. 280, and finished about B.C. 200 or 150.

Compiled from various sources by William Holden

Best

The reporter was interviewing the town's oldest woman. "And what do you find is the best thing about being 104?" he asked.

"That's easy," she said. "No peer pressure."

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

SUNDAY

10.00 am Parish Eucharist
(*1st Sunday of the month at 4.00 pm - Family service*)

10.00 am Online service via Youtube
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**FRIDAYS AT ST PETER'S
St Peter's 'Open Church' drop-in**

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

For coffee, conversation and companionship.

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

Report on Diocesan Synod meeting Saturday 5th February 2022

This synod was specifically to consider the response of the Diocese to the Living in Love and Faith initiative and there were no other items on the agenda. It was held in person at St Mary's Horsham, and on Zoom

Bishop Martin addressed the meeting explaining that the word Synod meant sharing a road. We are all called by God and moving to an unknown future. In the Bible we have the stories of Noah, Abraham, and the Exodus as examples of the journey into the unknown. Also, Jesus sending us out to proclaim the Good News is a journey into the unknown. Each one of us has a purpose but we should not take life on our own terms as it is a gift from God and a mystery. We are too a mystery to ourselves. As God's children we need to bear with each other in love and truth and maintain a safe space for all. Being human was not an exact science and Bishop Martin hoped that there would be hope, peace and dignity for all in a welcoming manner.

Archdeacon Martin then took a brief time considering the Pastoral Principles for living well together, to:

- Acknowledge prejudice
- Cast out fear
- Speak into silence
- Admit hypocrisy
- Address ignorance
- Pay attention to power

It is to be hoped that these principles set out on the Living in Love and Faith website would be present in any discussions within church settings and not just those relating to this particular topic.

The discussions relating specifically to Living in Love and Faith considered as the starting point in the survey within the diocese, completed by approximately 1400 people, around 5% of those eligible. Archdeacon Martin had produced a well thought out document summarising the feelings expressed in this survey so that General Synod might be made aware of some of the concerns and thoughts of members of the Chichester Diocese in relation to this topic. Synod members were then able to express their views and as a

result the document was amended to reflect the reservations as indicated below.

There were a variety of views on this difficult topic. All those who spoke expressed their views without hindrance and did so in well thought out and measured terms. Overall, 17 people expressed views, of whom 3 were on Zoom. The main comments are as follows:-

- Whilst it is clearly true that many LGBTQI Christians feel unwelcome and discriminated against, it is also true that those taking a more traditional view of sex and marriage now feel that they are not able to express their views without intimidation.
- The sample completing survey is not necessarily representative of the views of everyone across the diocese. The response is only 5% of those eligible and it was not a good cross section of the larger group. The responses were largely from the older age groups. It was not clear from some of the opinions expressed how widespread they are even within the sample as they did not relate to specific questions, but were instead in the spaces for general comments.
- There was concern that many may leave the established church if there were significant changes to the doctrine on marriage. This concern extends also to the church in other parts of the world, especially those suffering persecution for their faith.
- Further progress needs to be made to welcome everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation.
- Attention was drawn to the fact that there was no mention of marriage as in Genesis 1 and 2.

As a result of these comments the Archdeacon's document to be sent to General Synod was amended to reflect the various concerns indicated above and agreed by the Synod. At present there is not a copy of the amended document available. However, the issue is an ongoing one which will impact strongly on the life of the church.

William Holden

Diocesan Synod Member

PARISH EVENTS DIARY

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

Saturday 19th March - from 10am - Blue Jeans Saturday

Saturday 19th March - 1.10pm - Free Lunchtime concert - Rachel Smith, flute and Paul Gregory, guitar

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

The deadline for the April issue is
10th March



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THE FRUITS OF YOUR LABOUR

March is the time for tasks that you have not completed earlier. It is an opportunity to look at the pruning you have undertaken already to see if anything has been missed. Also, you have the chance to tidy up around the plants removing weeds, adding compost and plant feed. With the influence of climate change any of these tasks not tackled already are even more urgent. In this situation I would suggest that you aim to complete the outstanding tasks by the middle of the month.

Below are some of the tasks which should have been done but which will act as a checklist starting with those that fruit earlier.

1. Gooseberries should have the older and inward growing branches cut out and the new branch leaders cut back by a half. (Tackle this first as gooseberries are the first to fruit).
2. Cut out the older branches of the black currants.
3. The red currants should have the leading shoots shortened by half and the laterals cut back to two buds.
4. Blueberries should be pruned to encourage new growth. Remember that the fruit comes on last year's wood.
5. Finish tipping the raspberries. New plants can still be planted in March.
6. Tidy the grapevines.
7. Tidy the blackberries retying any loosened by the wind.
8. Finish pruning the apple trees.
9. Weed round the fruit trees and bushes.

We hope and pray for a spring, when it comes, with a mixture of sunshine and showers to give us the foundation for a good harvest.

The Fruit Farmer



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR GARDEN?

- 1) Pot on in the greenhouse, rooted cuttings of tender perennial plants and hardwood cuttings taken last year.
- 2) Plant Begonia tubers in the greenhouse this month positioning them just below the compost surface with the indented side facing upwards.
- 3) Sow hardy annual seeds, such as Clarkia, Sunflowers, Stocks, Poppies and Cornflowers, straight into a sunny border or pots outside.
- 4) Direct sow wildflower seed mixtures into raked soil in a sunny position.
- 5) Sow Sweet Peas directly into beds outdoors.
- 6) Plant bare root Roses straight into their flowering position. Feed existing Roses with a special rose feed.
- 7) Lift and divide established perennial plants. This improves vigour and will create new plants for your garden.
- 8) Plant summer flowering bulbs, such as Gladiolus, Lilies and Ranunculus, into beds, borders and containers.
- 9) 'Snowdrops in the Green' can be planted in the spring to brighten up your winter garden next year.
- 10) Plant border perennials such as Agapanthus and Alstromeria for summer colour - great for cut flowers in the house too.
- 11) Fertilise your beds. Once soil is workable dig a 5 cm or more layer of compost or well rotted manure into your beds. You can also work in general purpose fertiliser such as pelleted chicken manure or fish, bone and blood.
- 12) Prune (to 5 cm) winter flowering Jasmine after flowering to encourage new growth.
- 13) Prune over wintered Fuschias back to one or 2 buds on each shoot.
- 14) Keep an eye out for slugs as the weather warms . Also begin weeding.
- 15) Dead-head Daffodils as the flowers finish and let the foliage die back naturally.

16) Dead-head Hydrangeas before new growth appears. Cut to about one third of last seasons growth.

17) Repair and mow your lawn if it needs it.

Greenfingers

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.

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COME INTO MY KITCHEN.....

It is lovely to see the first signs of Spring – snowdrops, daffodils even some primroses but there is still a chance of wintry weather and this month's recipes include two warming dishes.

SPANISH STYLE HAKE

Hake is a meaty fish in the same family as cod and haddock. It is native to British waters so we should eat more of it! And this dish only uses one pan!

Serves 4

3tbsp olive oil
2 onions, thinly sliced
1 red and 1 yellow pepper, cut into strips
2 courgettes, halved lengthways and sliced
200g chorizo skinned and cubed
2tsp smoked paprika
200ml white wine
250ml chicken stock
1 orange
4 hake fillets
handful flat-leaf parsley, chopped
crusty bread to serve

Heat the olive oil in a large shallow casserole and cook the onions, peppers and courgettes over a high heat for 10 minutes until charred and softened. Turn down the heat, add the chorizo and cook for 5 minutes until the oil has turned red and the chorizo is starting to crisp. Add the paprika and cook for 30 seconds before pouring in the wine. Bubble for 2 minutes then add the stock.

Use a serrated knife to remove the peel from the orange, then cut it into ½ cm slices. Put these on top of the vegetables in the pan. Lay

the hake fillets on top of the orange slices, season well and reduce the heat to simmer. Put on the lid and simmer for 10 minutes or until the hake is just cooked through.

Scatter over the parsley and serve with crusty bread and a salad if you like.

CHICKEN CHASSEUR WITH CHEESE AND ROASTED GARLIC MASH

Serves 6-8

2kg chicken thighs and drumsticks
4tbsp plain flour
1tbsp olive oil
1tbsp butter
2 long shallots, diced
250g button mushrooms
3 cloves garlic, crushed
2tbsp tomato puree
250ml white wine
a few sprigs thyme
2 bay leaves
600-800 ml chicken stock
2-4tbsp cornflour (optional)
a handful flat-leaf parsley or chervil, chopped

MASH

1 bulb garlic
2tsp olive oil
1.5kg floury potatoes
50ml double cream
100ml whole milk
50g salted butter
50g parmesan, gruyere or comte cheese, finely grated, plus extra to serve

Heat the oven to 160/fan 140/gas 4. Put the chicken pieces in a large bowl, season well and toss with the flour to lightly coat.

Heat the oil in large, heavy casserole and sear the chicken in batches on all sides until golden brown. Add a splash more oil if you

need to, but the chicken should render some fat as you go. Remove to a plate.

Add the butter and shallots to the oil and fry for 5 minutes, then add the mushrooms and fry for a further 5 minutes. Stir in the garlic and tomato puree, then pour in the wine and bubble until reduced by half, scraping the bottom to remove any golden bits that may have stuck to the pan.

Add the seared chicken to the pan with the herbs. Top up with enough stock to cover the chicken. Put on the lid and transfer to the oven and cook for 1 hour.

While the chasseur is cooking, cut the top off the garlic bulb to expose the cloves and put on a sheet of foil, season, drizzle over the oil and scrunch up the foil to seal tightly. Roast below the chicken for 20-30 minutes until really tender when pressed. Remove and leave to cool.

After 1 hour, remove the lid from the chicken and cook for a further 20-30 minutes or until the sauce has thickened slightly and the chicken is fall-apart tender. Season well.

When the chicken is nearly ready, boil the potatoes in plenty of well-salted water for 15-20 minutes or until very tender. Drain and steam-dry for 1-2 minutes. Tip back into the warm pan and mash with the cream, milk and butter. Press the roasted garlic cloves from their papery shells and swirl through the mash, along with the cheese. Season well with salt and pepper and grate over a little more cheese to serve.

If you want the sauce to thicken a little more, mix the cornflour with a splash of cold water and stir into the chasseur. Heat over a low flame for 3-4 minutes or until thickened. Scatter with the parsley or chervil and serve spooned over the cheesy mash.

And finally, at a recent coffee morning Pam Miles served this delicious Boiled Fruit Cake.

FRUIT CAKE (MELTING METHOD)

INGREDIENTS

4oz Butter or Margarine
8oz Self Raising Flour
4oz Demerara Sugar
1 Level Teaspoon Mixed Spice
6oz Mixed Fruit
1/4 Pint Hot Water
2oz Glace Cherries (Chopped)
1 Egg (Beaten)

OVEN Gas Mark 4 or 160 degrees C (Fan Oven). Shelf on middle runner

METHOD

1. Prepare a Loaf Tin – preferably line it with greaseproof paper.
2. Put the fat, sugar, mixed fruit and water into a saucepan. Stir over a low heat until the fat has melted and the sugar is dissolved. Bring to the boil then simmer over a low heat for 3 minutes. Remove from heat and allow to cool to lukewarm. When cool add the cherries.
3. Sieve the flour and mixed spice into a bowl.
4. Make a well in the centre of the flour. Add the cooled mixture and beaten egg. Stir quickly together, mixing thoroughly.
5. Turn into the prepared cake tin and smooth the top.
6. Bake in the pre-heated oven for 1 – 1¼ hours.
7. Test before removing from the oven. Leave in the tin for a few minutes. Turn out, remove the paper and cool on a wire tray.



*The Parish Church of St. Peter
West Blatchington*

FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES

Our afternoon concert series continues with

Sussex Camerata

1.10 p.m. on Friday 18th March

The Recital is for approximately 40 minutes

Refreshments provided.

**There is no admission charge, but donations in support
of our choir fund will be gratefully accepted.**

All welcome!

MARCH SEASONS FESTIVALS AND SAINTS DAYS

Ash Wednesday – 2nd March

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the penitential season of Lent, in which the Priest applies ashes to the foreheads of Christians to signify an inner repentance.

Ash Wednesday, originally called *dies cinerum* (day of ashes), is mentioned in the earliest copies of the Gregorian Sacramentary, and probably dates from at least the 8th Century. One of the earliest descriptions of Ash Wednesday is found in the writings of the Anglo-Saxon abbot Aelfric (955-1020). In his Lives of the Saints, he writes, "We read in the books both in the Old Law and in the New that the men who repented of their sins bestrewed themselves with ashes and clothed their bodies with sackcloth. Now let us do this little at the beginning of our Lent that we strew ashes upon our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast." Aelfric then proceeds to tell the tale of a man who refused to go to church for the ashes and was accidentally killed several days later in a boar hunt! This quotation confirms what we know from other sources, that throughout the Middle Ages ashes were sprinkled on the head, rather than anointed on the forehead as in our day.

As Aelfric suggests, the pouring of ashes on one's body (and dressing in sackcloth, a very rough material) as an outer manifestation of inner repentance or mourning is an ancient practice. It is mentioned several times in the Old Testament. What is probably the earliest occurrence is found at the very end of the book of Job. Job, having been rebuked by God, confesses, "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6). Other examples are found in 2 Samuel 13:19, Esther 4:1,3, Isaiah 61:3, Jeremiah 6:26, Ezekiel 27:30, and Daniel 9:3. In the New Testament, Jesus alludes to the practice in Matthew 11:21: "Woe to you, Korazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were performed in you had been performed in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes."

In the typical Ash Wednesday observance, Christians are invited to the altar to receive the imposition of ashes, prior to receiving the sacrament of bread and wine. The Priest applies ashes in the shape of the cross on the forehead of each, while speaking the words, "For

dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). This is of course what God spoke to Adam and Eve after they had eaten of the forbidden fruit and fallen into sin. In the context of the Ash Wednesday imposition of ashes, they remind each penitent of their sinfulness and mortality, and, thus, their need to repent and get right with God before it is too late. The cross reminds each penitent of the good news that through Jesus Christ crucified there is forgiveness for all sins, all guilt, and all punishment.

Mothering Sunday – 27th March

Mothering Sunday falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent and also is known as Laetare Sunday. This name comes from the opening words of the Introit at the Mass, "Rejoice ye with Jerusalem" Isaiah 66.10. In the Western Church certain relaxations were permitted in the penitential observances. The rose-pink vestments were worn instead of the purple of Lent. It was also known as Refreshment Sunday as well as Mothering Sunday. It is unfortunate that the name of Mothering Sunday has been substituted with Mothers' Day as this loses the historic origins of the day.

There are three interlinked source of the name:

1. The custom in some parts of England of paying a visit to one's mother on that day.
2. The practice of visiting the cathedral or mother church on this day.
3. The words which occur in the traditional Epistle for the day, "Jerusalem which is the mother of us all" Gal 4.26.

On this day children often give their mothers gifts and cards as a way of saying thank you for their hard work.

In the past girls who worked as domestic servants were given the day off work to visit their mothers. They often took a simnel cake as a present. Simnel cake is especially associated with Mothering Sunday. It is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste. On top there are eleven balls of marzipan, one for each faithful disciple, Judas not being included as he betrayed Jesus.

Compiled by William Holden from various sources.

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MONEY MATTERS - Figures for January 2022

Receipts

Planned Giving	£	3323
Income tax recovered	£	1294
Community Centre Income	£	1300
Sundry donations	£	20
Collections/other giving	£	92
Fundraising	£	166
Keynotes subs/adverts	£	904
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£	7099

Payments

Parish Contribution	£	6038
Salaries	£	682
Utilities and Insurance	£	257
Rectory/Rectors expenses	£	444
Church running expenses/maintenance	£	793
Community Centre running costs	£	238
Upkeep of services	£	198
Printing costs	£	121
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£	8771

Year to date deficit £1,672



Date	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for March (Year C)
TUES 1ST	<i>David, Bishop, Patron of Wales c601</i> <i>The Anglican church in Wales</i>
WEDS 2ND	Ash Wednesday Joel 2.1-2, 12-17 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10 John 8.1-11
THURS 3RD	<i>Our Lent Course</i>
FRI 4TH	<i>Family Social Work</i>
SAT 5TH	<i>Our community police officers</i>
SUN 6TH	1st Sunday of Lent Deuteronomy 26.1-11 Romans 10.8b-13 Luke 4.1-13
MON 7TH	<i>Perpetua, Felicity and Companions, martyrs, 203</i> <i>Hangleton & West Blatchington Foodbank</i>
TUES 8TH	<i>Edward King, Bishop 1910, Felix, Bishop, 647, Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy, Priest, Poet, 1929.</i> <i>Bishops Council</i>
WEDS 9TH	<i>Hove Deanery Synod</i>
THURS 10TH	<i>Diocesan Synod Members</i>
FRI 11TH	<i>Our Churchwardens</i>
SAT 12TH	<i>Our Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and their Leaders</i>
SUN 13TH	2nd Sunday of Lent Genesis 15.1-12 Philippians 3.1-4.1 Luke 13.31-35
MON 14TH	<i>Our outreach through music</i>
TUES 15TH	<i>Our puppeteers</i>

WEDS 16TH	<i>Our Sunday School</i>
THURS 17TH	<i>Patrick, Bishop, Missionary and Patron of Ireland, c460 All seafarers</i>
FRI 18TH	<i>Cyril, Bishop of Jerusalem, Teacher of the Faith, 386 All who teach and preach the Gospel</i>
SAT 19TH	<i>Joseph of Nazareth All fathers</i>
SUN 20TH	3rd Sunday of Lent Isaiah 55.1-9 1 Corinthians 10.1-13 Luke 13.1-9
MON 21ST	<i>Thomas Cramner, Archbishop, Reformation Martyr, 1556 Our Bible Study Groups</i>
TUES 22ND	<i>Our Lenten devotion</i>
WEDS 23RD	<i>Our understanding of our faith</i>
THURS 24TH	<i>Paul Couturier, Priest, Ecumenist, 1953, Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, Martyr, 1980. All those suffer- ing persecution</i>
FRI 25TH	<i>The Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary All mothers</i>
SAT 26TH	<i>Harriet Monsell, Founder of the Community of St John the Baptist, Clewer, 1883 All Religious Communities</i>
SUN 27TH	4th Sunday of Lent – Mothering Sunday 1 Samuel 1.20-28 Colossians 3.12-17 Luke 2.33-35
MON 28TH	<i>Our understanding of the scriptures</i>
TUES 29TH	<i>Our prayer life</i>
WEDS 30TH	<i>The Dean and Chapter of Chichester Cathedral</i>
THURS 31ST	<i>John Donne, Priest, Poet, 1631 All theologians</i>

And finally.....

Almighty, loving Father,

Thank you for the month of March, the month of Spring, the month when hopes are high and new things seem possible, when even coming through the pandemic seems possible.

This month we remember the day that the angel told Mary that she would bear your Son – how could that have seemed possible to her?

Help us to trust you as she did. Whatever we may face, help us to have peace and confidence, knowing, as she did, that nothing is impossible with you.

In Jesus' name.

Amen

By Daphne Kitching



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