

KEYNOTES



June 2023

£1.00

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PASTORAL CARE

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

KEYNOTES EDITORIAL TEAM

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

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

PARISH EVENTS DIARY

The following events taking place in June and July as notified are:

Friday 16th June - Free lunchtime concert - 1.10pm
Imogen Ryall Duo - Jazz

Saturday 17th June - 11.30am until 2.30pm
Summer Fair

Saturday 8th July - 6.30pm -
Tim's hymns and Pimms evening in the Rectory garden

Friday 14th July - Free lunchtime concert - 1.10pm
Tim Bolwell - trumpet

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 July/August 2023 issue is
8th June



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the June edition of Keynotes.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting took place on the 23rd April which unfortunately created a clash with the FA Cup semi-final featuring Brighton and Hove Albion. This caused the absence of some diehard Seagulls fans! However, the meeting coped without them! David Keeling and Jonathan Cooke were re-elected as Churchwardens and we give our thanks for all the work they have done and will continue to do. Paula Light continues to do a sterling job as PCC Secretary as does our treasurer, Mandy Gander. Erica Casula, Sue Turner and Roger Yates have joined the PCC. Many thanks to them, and to Moz Ward, Paul Barratt, Eliot Flackhill and Ian Barrett who have resigned from the PCC.

The new visual and sound system is being installed as this is being written and this will be a tremendous asset for the church not least for those who have hearing problems.

We now look forward to the Summer Fair on the 17 June, one of our major fund-raising events, and Zanita has been busy organising the various stalls and raffle. Let's hope the weather is kind to us so that we can be outside. It is not too late to volunteer to help in some capacity. There are lists at the back of church for donations to the various raffles. If you can offer some time to help before, during or afterwards, then please speak to Zanita.

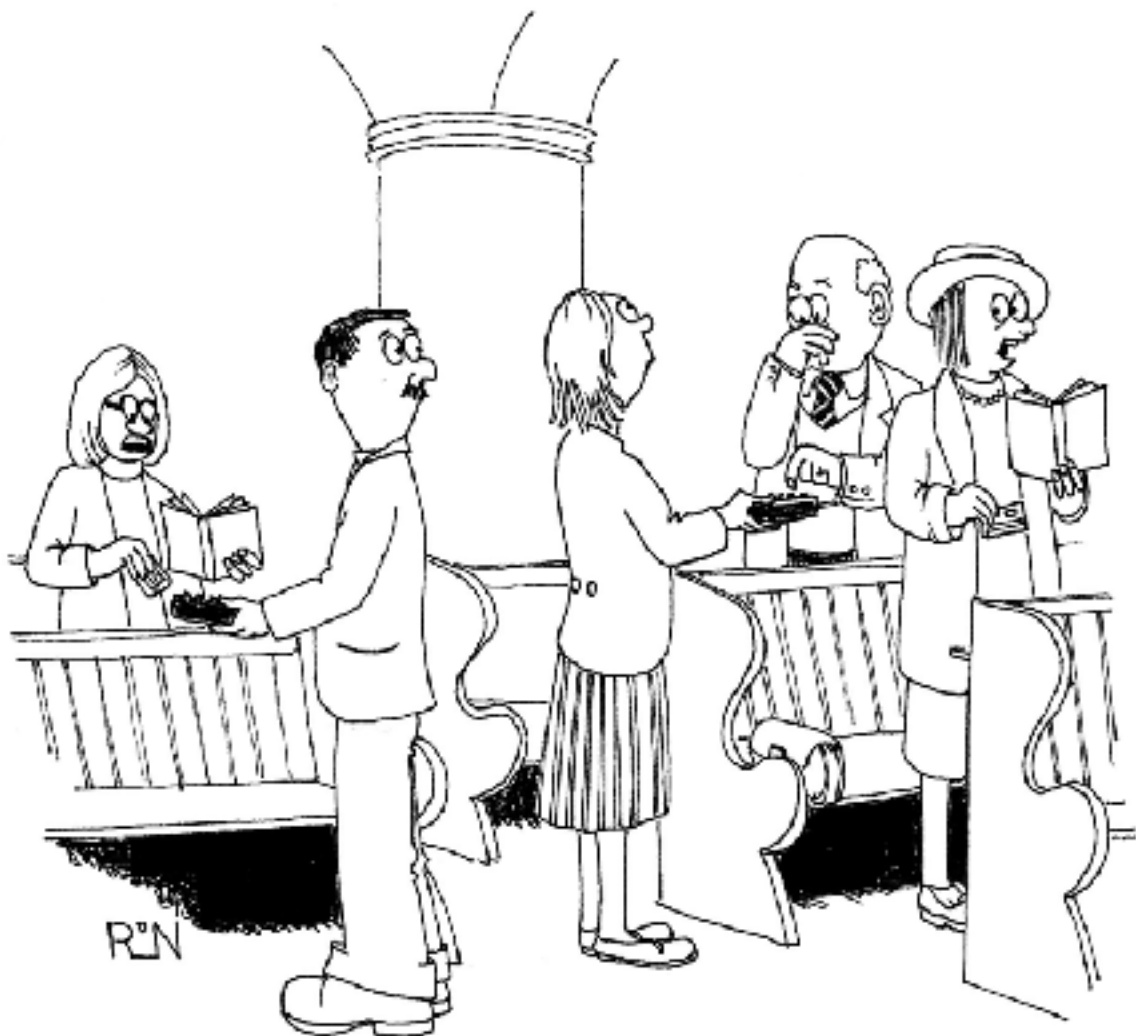
The lunchtime concerts are proving very popular and we have had over 50 people attending the concerts in March and April. The next one is on Friday 16 June featuring a very well known local jazz singer, Imogen Ryall, who will be performing with her accompanist as the Imogen Ryall Duo. She has performed at Ronnie Scott's so we are in for a treat.

The monthly Friday coffee mornings are good for getting to know people and enjoy some refreshments. These take place on the first Friday of each month at 10.30. Look forward to seeing you there.

The Editorial must contain mention of the Coronation even though there is a report later contributed by Maggie Keeling. Surely there is

no country in the world that can match the UK for events like these and what a truly wonderful day it was as we watched our new King, Charles III, being crowned. God save the King.

Editorial Committee



Mr Mackenzie kept forgetting his PIN

Rector's Ramblings

1 Peter 4:10 - Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

One of the things I love most about birthdays is seeing people opening their presents. I love to see the look on people's faces and their reaction when they discover what's inside the carefully wrapped packages. Gifts are great, especially surprise gifts and when we read the Bible we are told that God loves to give us gifts too! But just like any good gift, these gifts are meant to be used. When I look around St. Peter's, I'm amazed by the different gifts that God has given us. The musical abilities, the compassion, the growing knowledge of scripture, the skills with finance, the desire to pray and reach out, the creativity with plants and something that eludes me: the gift to be able to ring the church bell properly!

But above all these the greatest gift He has given us is the gift of faith. When someone chooses to trust in the living God, that is only because the Holy Spirit has gifted them that power to believe, it is something truly miraculous.

Because all these gifts come from God, we can't actually claim that they are ours, rather as Peter says in the above verse we are just stewards of them. To put it another way we are looking after them for God for a short period of time and as a result they should be used for God's glory.

At St. Peter's we are embarking on a journey where each one of us is growing in the knowledge of how God has gifted us and how each one of us is called to play their part in using these gifts to serve each other.

I encourage you to set aside some time and to prayerfully reflect on how God might be calling you to use your God-given gifts to serve others.

You might want to ponder the following:

- When do you feel most alive during your day?
- When have others told you that they appreciate one of your gifts?
- Ask God to reveal to you one way that you could use your gifts to bless someone new this week?

Blessings
Rev Tim



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WOMEN'S SOCIAL

On 27th April, the members enjoyed meeting at Jane Cummings' home for coffee, cake and chat. We were delighted to be joined by new member, Sue.

We held our annual Charity Cream Tea on 11th May, when Maggie and David were delighted to welcome members, partners and other friends to their home. We were, once again, blessed with glorious sunshine as 25 of us gathered for tea, sandwiches, scones, cake and conversation. Thank you to all who provided refreshments and raffle prizes. We raised £270 for our charity.

Members celebrating birthdays in June are Stella on the 16th and Jane Cummings on the 29th. Birthday greetings to you both.

Maggie Keeling

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James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

The Coronation of King Charles III

Many congratulations to King Charles and Queen Camilla.

We hope you all had a wonderful Bank Holiday weekend celebrating the Coronation. Here are some photos from some of you enjoying the celebrations.



Julie and Roger Yates in their caravan in the Witterings.

Peter and Lorraine Blakeney gathering with neighbourhood friends on Woodland Avenue, The Triangle on Sunday afternoon.



So that people could gather together to watch the television coverage, it was agreed that the church would be open from 10.00 a.m. on the morning of the Coronation and that refreshments would be available.

Invitations were issued to local residents and the bunting was raised both inside and outside the church.

The technical side of things was left to Reverend Tim and Sue Barnard and I provided the refreshments.

With help from our husbands (the 2 David's), everything was set up.

We were delighted that in total 19 people gathered together and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Several brought contributions to the refreshments and donated to the Church. We had a wonderful

selection of sandwiches, pastries and cakes. We raised a glass (or 2!) of Pimms to the health of the King and Queen.

But what made it so special was seeing the enjoyment people had from viewing this memorable occasion in the company of others.

Maggie



Plant

During our minister's very lengthy sermon, a large plant suddenly fell over right behind the pulpit, crashing to the floor. He smiled sheepishly. "Well, that's the first time I actually put a plant to sleep!"

St Augustine of Hippo

St. Augustine of Hippo, also known as Augustine of Thagaste, was a Christian theologian and philosopher who is widely considered one of the most important figures in the development of Western Christianity. He was born on November 13, 354, in Thagaste, a small town in what is now Algeria. His father, Patricius, was a pagan and his mother, Monica, was a devout Christian who would later become a saint.

Augustine was educated in rhetoric and philosophy in Carthage, a major city in North Africa. He was a brilliant student, and his studies helped him develop a keen intellect and a love of learning. However, Augustine was also drawn to a life of pleasure and indulgence, and he became involved in a series of illicit affairs and other sinful activities.

Despite his mother's fervent prayers and efforts to guide him toward a life of piety, Augustine remained uninterested in Christianity. It was not until he encountered the teachings of the renowned bishop Ambrose of Milan that he began to reconsider his beliefs. Ambrose's eloquent preaching and his emphasis on the importance of reason and faith helped to convince Augustine to embrace Christianity.

In 386, at the age of 32, Augustine underwent a profound conversion experience. He was walking in a garden, deep in thought and troubled by the ongoing struggle between his desire for pleasure and his yearning for spiritual fulfillment, when he heard a voice telling him to "take up and read." Augustine picked up a nearby Bible and opened it to a passage in the Epistle to the Romans, which spoke directly to his soul and convinced him to devote himself fully to God.

After his conversion, Augustine returned to Thagaste and began to live a life of monastic devotion. He was ordained as a priest in 391 and later became the bishop of Hippo, a small city in North Africa. Throughout his life, Augustine was a prolific writer and a tireless defender of the Christian faith.

Augustine's writings covered a wide range of topics, including theology, philosophy, and ethics. He is perhaps best known for his seminal work, "Confessions," an autobiographical account of his life and his journey toward faith. The book is widely regarded as a

masterpiece of Western literature, and its frankness and introspection have inspired generations of readers.

In addition to his theological and philosophical writings, Augustine was also a significant political figure. He was a vocal advocate for the separation of church and state and opposed the use of force in matters of religious belief. Augustine believed that the role of the church was to provide moral guidance and support to individuals and communities, and he worked tirelessly to promote peace and justice.

Augustine died on August 28, 430, during the siege of Hippo by the Vandals, a Germanic tribe that had invaded North Africa. Although his city was under attack and his people were suffering, Augustine remained focused on his faith and his mission to serve God. His writings and teachings continue to be widely read and studied today, and his influence on the development of Christian thought and Western culture cannot be overstated.

St Augustine and the Psalms

St. Augustine of Hippo was a prolific preacher and writer, and his works on the Psalms are considered some of his most insightful and profound contributions to Christian theology. Augustine believed that the Psalms were a rich source of spiritual insight and that they could be used to guide individuals on their path toward God.

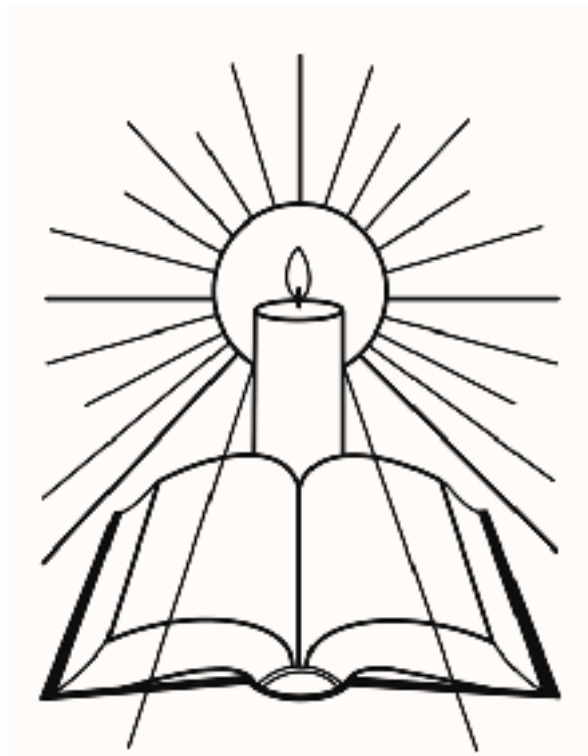
One of Augustine's key insights into the Psalms was the idea that they could be interpreted on multiple levels. He believed that the Psalms were not only meant to be understood literally, but also had deeper spiritual meanings that could be unlocked through careful study and meditation.

In his preaching on the Psalms, Augustine emphasized the importance of understanding the context in which each Psalm was written. He believed that the Psalms were written by real people, who were experiencing real emotions and struggles, and that these experiences were reflected in the Psalms themselves. By understanding the historical context of each Psalm, Augustine believed that readers could gain deeper insights into its meaning and significance.

Augustine also emphasized the importance of using the Psalms in prayer and meditation. He believed that the Psalms were powerful tools for communicating with God and that they could be used to express a wide range of emotions, from joy and gratitude to fear and despair. Augustine encouraged his listeners to use the Psalms as a way to deepen their relationship with God and to gain greater insight into their own spiritual journeys.

One of Augustine's most famous works on the Psalms is his commentary on Psalm 50, also known as the Miserere. This Psalm, which is a prayer for forgiveness, was a favourite of Augustine's, and he believed that it encapsulated the central message of the Christian faith. In his commentary, Augustine focused on the idea that true repentance involves not only confessing one's sins but also turning away from them and striving to live a more virtuous life.

Overall, Augustine's preaching on the Psalms emphasized the idea that these ancient texts were still relevant to contemporary Christians and that they could be used to guide individuals on their path toward God. He believed that the Psalms were a powerful tool for prayer and meditation and that they could help individuals to deepen their relationship with God and to gain greater insight into their own spiritual journeys. Today, Augustine's insights into the Psalms continue to be studied and revered by Christians around the world.



Keynotes Around the World

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

Thank you.



Everything I need to know... I learned from Noah's Ark

- 1 Don't miss the boat.
- 2 Remember that we are all in the same boat.
- 3 Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
- 4 Stay fit. When you're very old Someone may ask you to do something really big.
- 5 Don't listen to critics. Just get on with the job needing to be done.
- 6 Build your future on high ground.
- 7 For safety's sake, travel in pairs.
- 8 Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.
- 9 When you're stressed, float awhile.
- 10 No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

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Our Charity for June

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They are there to make sure that children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions and their families get all the care and support they need.

They will take some of the stresses away from your everyday life, so you can focus on making precious memories together as a family. From offering **help in your own home** to **activity days** and short breaks at the hospice, they provide specialist care while allowing kids to be kids and mums and dads to be just that.

Whatever your journey looks like, their team are there to support your family through the good days, the bad days and the last days in whatever way feels right for you.

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

Please support them if you can.

Wordsearch Clues

Each June, the Church of England holds its Petertide ordinations, to coincide with the feast day of the great apostle Peter, who led the Church at Pentecost.

Simon had been a fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee, when his brother Andrew introduced him to Jesus. When Simon made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus gave him a new name – Cephas, or Peter, which means rock. The ‘gates of hell’ would never prevail against Jesus’ Church, and He gave Peter the power of ‘binding and loosing’, and also ‘the keys of the kingdom of heaven’. Peter witnessed the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and Jesus praying in Gethsemane.

Peter betrayed Jesus but after the Resurrection, Jesus entrusted him to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ’s flock. Peter was the first apostle to work a miracle.

Simon	Crowed
Peter	Feed
Fisherman	My
Bethsaida	Lambs
Galilee	Sheep
Andrew	Keys
Jesus	Kingdom
Rock	Gates
Transfiguration	Hell
Raising	Binding
Daughter	Loosing
Garden	
Gethsemane	
Betrayed	
Cock	

R S S N O N H D T O M D R S D
L T B G O D E E U D F G N E I
E A N M A Y T N E E I E C A H
N O I T A R U G I F S N A R T
D S M R M L D H B F H A L E H
R H T I O E A E I R E M E K K
D E W O R C E A N D R E W E N
B E T R K E K L D A M S D Y N
K P B E T H S A I D A H E L L
R L Y T P M R S N L N T G S L
G S I H E E I U G C A E S N C
I L T G G N I S O O L G N F B
T T D U G A T E S C N N M O S
Y L I A I H W J G K R W R E H
N M O D G N I K A S R I F M D

Psalm 113:3

**From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same
the Lord's name is to be praised.**

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Thank you for all those that attended our APCM in April. For those that missed it, please find below the three main reports.

Chairman's Address

Once again I get to address you all and say thank you to each and everyone of you for all your prayer, hard work, love and generosity this past year.

I am hugely grateful to Rev Jan and Jenny and to see how God is growing them in their calling in ministry. It's been a delight to see Jan's leading and preaching excel along with his competence in all the tasks he faces.

I am incredibly grateful to the wardens, David and Jonathan and of course to their wonderful wives. We have enjoyed meeting together over the past year and I truly feel supported by them.

I am grateful to the PCC and for their ongoing support in putting our mission action plan into practice.

I'm grateful to Mandy for all she does as both a treasurer and parish administrator and for the myriad of things she does behind-the-scenes. I want to thank Paula Light for serving as a secretary and diligently recording our meetings. I would like to thank those who have served on the PCC and who are now stepping down, for their service and I'm grateful for our three new members and I look forward to working with them more.

I want to thank the pastoral care team for making sure that we care for those who are most vulnerable in our extended family, for all those who give time and effort to gardening and the flowers in church along with Sadie our cleaner.

I'm very grateful to the Sunday school and all their leaders and helpers for the great job they do in teaching our children and young people about Jesus and making it fun, accessible and life changing.

I am hugely indebted to Gill Evans overseeing our music along with her husband Michael providing us with joyful songs to sing each week in addition to the fabulous concerts that they have organised as well.

I'm thankful to all those who lead as intercessors, readers, sides people, ministers of communion and of course those who serve refreshments. I have hugely enjoyed the last year especially on those occasions when we have gathered as a church family. I was delighted to see 26 people attend our Alpha course and for the fun we had and for the new things that we learnt too.

I am hugely grateful to Zanita for all the hard work she has put in to both the Summer and Christmas fairs and in helping those to become events where outreach is at the forefront.

If I have missed you out, please forgive me, but I really am grateful to each and everyone of you.

As we look to the coming year I can see that we are a growing church in all sorts of ways. With that there are great opportunities but also challenges as well. It will become more and more important that each one of us is part of a small group of believers where we can offer greater support, care and accountability.

I look forward to seeing how our new video live streaming set up will enable us to be even more missional. And to take Saint Peters Church into peoples homes in the parish and further afield. I'm excited about the opportunities for great connections with our wonderful schools and in particular how we can develop and support our own youth and children's work.

Lastly, when we look to the National press and read about much that goes on in our denomination it can be quite down-heartening, however when I look to St Peter's West Blatchington I am really encouraged. I hope you share that encouragement too.

Rev Tim Gage

Treasurer's Report

Sorry, but I need to start with the bad news!

We finished this year with a £26,161 deficit. This is unsustainable. We have had a deficit for the last 4 years, a total of which is a staggering £108,233. If this continues and we do not do something about it, we will no longer be able to pay for Parish Ministry Costs and that may mean no longer having a full time Priest.

I am therefore delighted that we have now started a 'Journey of Generosity' with the help of Andrew Smith, the Diocesan Generous Advisor to help us become self supporting. It will be a 3 to 5 year journey and you will be hearing more about our plans over the coming months.

Step one was our new donation station which was installed in Church in January this year and has already made a difference to our income and paid for itself very quickly. It is very easy to use and we are encouraging both our regulars and visitors to use it.

In the meantime, we need to continue to grow our congregation and all review our giving to St Peter's. For those that do not give at the moment, please consider signing up to the Parish Giving Scheme. Ministry is not free and however much you can give WILL make a difference.

Our planned giving was £37,063 last year which was just over £3,000 more than in 2021 which is really encouraging. We have a total of 52 families contributing to our income monthly, and with 104 people on our electoral roll, there is potential for more people to sign up to regular giving.

Our fundraising income totalled an amazing £7,280 with the Christmas Fair raising the highest amount on record. Well done and thank you to everyone involved in these vital events which bring not only desperately needed income they also bring our Church Community together.

Our Community Centre continued to be rented by St Anthony's the pre school nursery throughout the year. Lynne Butler, the owner,

retired after 32 years and her daughter Sophie Weal took over the reins and they continue to attract many local families. At other times the Community centre is rented out for events and parties and gave us a total income last year of £14,227. A special thank you goes out to Maria Williams our Community Centre bookings Manager for her great organisational skills.

Claiming gift aid added an additional £8,771 to our income. We can claim gift aid on any donation if you are a tax payer and the small donation gift aid on any donations £30 or under, including card donations.

The Amazon Smile and Easyfundraising schemes provided us with a small quarterly income. Amazon Smile has now stopped donating funds to charities and I therefore urge you all to download the Easyfundraising App on your device and use it everytime you purchase something online. It is so easy to do and really does make a difference and does not cost you anything. Please encourage your family & friends to download it too!

We received no legacies last year. If you love being part of St Peter's, please consider leaving something to the Church in your will so that St Peter's is here for future generations to enjoy.

We received a £250 Energy Grant from the Diocese to help with the increase in energy bills.

Our main expense for 2022 was £72,500 on Parish Ministry costs which covers Clergy stipend, national insurance, pension and housing as well as training, Parish support and central Church administration.

My thanks goes to Rev Tim, David Keeling & Peter Blakeney for being part of the finance team along with myself. We regularly review Church outgoings & look at ways to increase our income.

Our investment with CBF was valued at £222,149 on the 31st December 2022. We had to use £20k of these funds to help with the ongoing costs of running the Church. This continues to be a nice cushion for us but we cannot rely on it alone to fund the Church outgoings. Also the Charity Commission says that funds have to be spent!

The Church Bank account is held with CAF and is continuing to work well with an £5 monthly fee. There is also a charge for large amounts of cash paid in.

Our wages costs remained consistent and I am extremely grateful to Gill Evans for continuing to be our Choir Master in an unpaid capacity.

Thank you to all those involved in putting together our activity booklet which shows what an active Church community we are. My thanks also go to Jonathan Cooke for his help in putting together the review in our annual accounts and to Michael Evans who audited them.

I will leave you with one plea, that you all go home and review your giving. Can you increase it by 3,4 or 5%? If we all do that, it will make a huge difference to this unsustainable position we are currently in.

Luke 21:1-4

The Widow's Two Mites

And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, **2** and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. **3** So He said, "Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; **4** for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had."

Mandy Gander

Churchwardens Report

My co-warden, Jonathan Cooke, and I have enjoyed a busy year and we are very grateful for everyone's support and encouragement which made such a difference to us, and to Fr Tim, as he pushed ahead during his third year of office. It has been fun and we have been lucky to have such a talented leader who, with his delightful family, has brought a forward-looking atmosphere in and around our church.

We would like to draw your attention to the project to upgrade our sound system and to install video facilities to live stream our services in church. This started early in 2022 and is now well under way. We have developed a suitable system in co-operation with a local supplier, and a faculty application, or “permission to change”, has been submitted to the Diocese requesting authorisation to install equipment which will alter the appearance of the inside of our church to some degree. This will include two new 75inch TV monitors in the main church and a smaller 65inch screen in the old church. Two new larger 8inch speakers will be placed in the chancel at the front. A camera facility will be used so that we can live stream services on the internet as appropriate. The faculty application has been considered by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) and a decision was deferred pending a visit to St Peter’s by members of the DAC to see the effects of our changes. This visit has now taken place and it would appear that all went well. We are optimistic of a positive outcome in the near future so that we can move forward to meet the changing needs of the Parish. It is interesting to note that some local schools and businesses have expressed support for what we can offer.

The idea behind this upgrade was developed during the early days of the Covid crisis when Fr Tim began recording the Sunday service to play on YouTube for those who could not, or did not think it wise to attend church in person. The practice increased in importance when lockdown started and the church was closed. It was interesting, at this time, to hear from people and groups from outside the Parish, and from outside the UK in India and Australia, who liked to tune or dial in for the Sunday morning screening. Once restrictions ended, the concept of working from home meant again that there was a strong incentive to not go out.

As always, the church building, community centre, and grounds had to be maintained in accordance with Health and Safety law, Diocesan Rules, and good practice. No major work was found to be necessary but minor repairs were carried out as appropriate.

We wish to record that we, as Churchwardens, are officers of the Bishop and are responsible, among other things, for the following:

- The maintenance and security of the fabric and structure of the church building and the furnishings and ornaments within it; This

includes liaison with our Architect over the Quinquennial Inspection.

- The administration associated with the running of the parish, including making sure that all legal requirements are complied with, e.g. health and safety, fire and planning regulations;
- Keeping order in the church during services and evicting anyone who causes a nuisance;
- Ensuring that there is someone available to take services if the rector is absent, or even taking a (non-eucharistic) service if at the last minute the priest is unable to perform;
- Acting as a guide and sounding-board for the rector and taking concern for his general welfare;
- Listening to the views and concerns of members of the parish.

We are grateful for the support from the PCC and in particular Tim and Jan which has been invaluable.

Jonathan Cooke and David Keeling

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Prayer List Requests

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

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

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

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



St Peter's Pastoral Care Group

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

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

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

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

Stag Beetle by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

I've only ever had one sporting hero. In the red corner, standing 6ft 6 and weighing in at 365lbs, Big Daddy kept my Gran and me glued to the TV set on wet Saturday afternoons as he wrestled Giant Haystacks or Kendo Nagasaki in his sequined spandex.

In June, Stag Beetles – the big daddies of the beetle world – are emerging from the ground and getting ready to rumble. There's around 3,000 different species of beetle in Sussex and an estimated 29,000 species across Europe. Just as Big Daddy's 64-inch chest earned him a place in the Guinness Book of Records, the 2.5 inch long Stag Beetle holds the coveted title of Europe's Biggest Beetle. And, like a 26 stone man in a spangly leotard, the adult male Stag Beetle is equally impressive and ludicrous. Its 3-segmented black and maroon armoured body is crowned with a ridiculous pair of trademark stag-like 'antlers'. They are actually modified mandible mouthparts and are used to impress the antler-less females and to grapple rival males.

Before these tiny titans step into the ring they have to put in some long hours in training. The beetle's larvae spend an incredible 5-6 years munching on a deadwood diet of buried logs and roots, building the bulky body that will sustain them to survive above ground. As adults they will live for just a few weeks without feeding, relying solely on the fuel tanks accumulated underground. In early summer, after pupation and transformation, they burst from the ground and go looking for a fight. I always find it incredible that these chunky, bulky beetles can fly but on warm evenings they whir through the air with the grace and subtlety of a Chinook on aerial reconnaissance for females. But if another male beats them to it that's when things get nasty.

In my fantasies I imagine these beetle brawls to play out on a dead tree stump. A crowd of over-excited elderly invertebrates gather round; the grasshoppers and crickets chirping in with a chorus of "We shall not be moved" while the earthworms and earwigs chant "Eas-eh! Eas-eh!" The fighters face off before charging and locking antlers.

With incredible strength a Stag Beetle can lift his opponent into the air, holding him there heroically before spectacularly body-slamming them down onto the stump.

We're fortunate that southeast England is a hotspot for these Herculean heavyweights but sadly our Stag Beetles are on the ropes. The loss of old trees from the countryside has had dramatic impacts on the survival of the beetles' underground larvae and their numbers are declining. My tip for spotting a Stag Beetle is to look for them in June in Henfield churchyard in West Sussex or around Ringmer in East Sussex.



Better by half

As the music swelled at the end of a wedding in our church, my hopelessly romantic husband squeezed my hand, leaned in, and whispered fervently: "You are better looking than half the women here."

People and Places of the Bible

Daniel

Daniel and Jacob's son Joseph both prospered in foreign lands after interpreting dreams for their rulers, and both were elevated to high office as a result of their faithfulness to God. After Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, besieged Jerusalem, he chose noble men from Israel's royal household to be trained in the ways of the Babylonians. Daniel and his three countrymen from Judea were chosen and given new names to hasten their assimilation into the Babylonian culture. Daniel and his friends proved to be the wisest of all the trainees, and at the end of their training, they entered the service of King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel and his friends became knowledgeable in all Babylonian matters, and Daniel was given by God the ability to understand dreams and visions of all kinds.

In the second year of his reign, Nebuchadnezzar was troubled with a dream that he could not interpret, and decreed that all the wise men, including Daniel and his companions, must be put to death. However, after Daniel sought God in prayer, the mystery of the king's dream was that Daniel was honoured by King Nebuchadnezzar and placed in authority over all the wise men of Babylon. After experiencing a period of insanity, Nebuchadnezzar was restored to health and praised Daniel's God as the Most High.

Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar's son and successor, saw a hand writing on the wall and Daniel was called upon to interpret it. As a reward for interpreting the writing, Daniel was promoted to the third highest position in the Babylonian kingdom. That night, as Daniel had prophesied, the king was slain in battle and his kingdom was taken over by the Persian Cyrus the Great, and Darius the Mede was made king. Daniel excelled in his duties as one of the administrators to such a degree that King Darius was contemplating making him head over all the kingdom. However, the administrators coaxed Darius into issuing a decree forbidding prayers to any god other than the king for the next thirty days. Daniel disobeyed the edict and continued to pray openly to the true God. Daniel was arrested and thrown into the lions' den, but not without a prayer. The next day, when found alive and well, he told the king that God had sent an angel to shut the lions'

mouths. This miracle resulted in King Darius sending out a decree that all his subjects were to worship the God of Daniel.

Daniel is well known for the prophetic dreams and visions God gave him, recorded in the book of Daniel. His prophecies cover a broad range of human history, as he predicted the rise and fall of the Greek and Roman Empires and the rise of a powerful king. His "seventy weeks" prophecy spoke of a Messiah who would be killed, and the remainder of the prophecy will be fulfilled in the end times. Daniel exercised great integrity and received the respect and affection of the powerful rulers he served. Daniel's honesty and loyalty to his masters never led him to compromise his faith in the one true God. His integrity as a man of God earned him favour with the secular world, yet he refused to compromise his faith in God. He also taught us that no matter who we are dealing with, we should treat them with compassion.

Babylon

Babylon in the Bible was an important city-state on the banks of the Euphrates River in Mesopotamia. Its name stems from the narrative in Genesis 11:1-11, which concerns the construction of the Tower of Babel. The word babel means confusion, by mixing, and it may have been a fortress but was more likely a temple to God.

Nimrod was the first mighty man of the Bible, and Babel was the foundation of Babylon. Babylon in the Bible was first mentioned by name in 2 Kings 17:24, when the king of Assyria displaced the people of Israel with those of Babylon. The evil of Babylon in the Bible emanated from the objects of its worship and the actions of its rulers and subjects. The people who erected the Tower of Babel decided to make a name for themselves in opposition to God, and they proceeded with outright disdain for God's rule. Babylon's god was Marduk, one they considered the supreme deity over all others.

The Assyrian/Babylonian regimes were known for their cruel punishments, such as cutting off feet, lips, and noses, blinding prisoners, gutting them, and tearing out their hearts. Jonah was a prophet who knew of the coming Babylonian captivity and wanted for their destruction. Babylon carried Israel off in a two-stage deportation (597 and 587 BC), and the accounts in Daniel show just a few examples of the heinous acts of punishment.

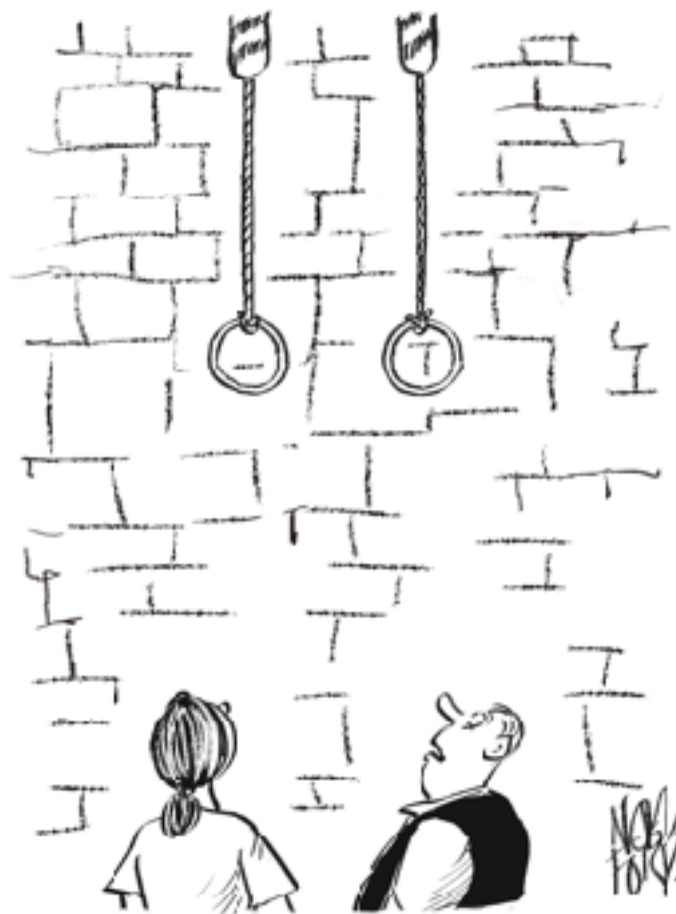
The book of Revelation suggests that Babylon and the Whore of Babylon are symbolic of a spirit of a seductive culture which will fall to

God's wrath. We know that sin and evil on an individual basis entered the world when Adam and Eve sinned, causing their spiritual death. Cain killed his brother Abel (Genesis 4:8). The most important details in this context are that corporate sin was embraced by a group of people who built a tower with its top in the heavens to make a name for themselves, and that God will bring an end to the sinful world. Babylon, in Revelation, is a symbol for the world as ruled by the devil, and is called the "mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations" in Revelation 17:5. She is also the "dwelling place" for "demons, unclean spirits and birds, and every unclean and detestable beast" in Revelation 18:21. Finally, a mighty angel takes up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more."

So we have the historic and symbolic Babylons in the Bible with the latter reflecting the worse aspects of the former.

William Holden

Drawn from various sources



"Apparently, the new member of the bell-ringing team is a keen gymnast"

Small Donations Scheme

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

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

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

Coffee	£	5.50
Cleaning materials	£	45.00
2 new tea pots	£	21.98
Monthly wifi in Church	£	28.50
Coronation books	£	75.00
Monthly website fee	£	19.34
Altar Breads for communion	£	10.94
Monthly CAF Bank account fee	£	5.00

Thank you for your sponsorship

Our grateful thanks go to the person who wishing to remain anonymous, very kindly donated £185 to pay for the annual organ tuning.

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

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

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

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

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

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

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



The Rector is always available for spiritual counsel and healing prayer

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

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

For coffee, conversation and companionship.

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

I asked for strength...

God gave me difficulties to make me strong.
I asked for wisdom...

and God gave me problems to solve.
I asked for prosperity...

and God gave me brain and brawn to work.
I asked for courage...

and God gave me danger to overcome.
I asked for love...

and God gave me troubled people to help.
I asked for favours...

and God gave me opportunities.
I received nothing I wanted...

I received everything I needed!

The Struggle

A man found a cocoon of a butterfly. He took it home so that he could watch it come out of the cocoon. On that day, a small opening appeared. He sat and watched for several hours as the butterfly struggled to force itself through that little hole.

Then it seemed to stop making any progress and appeared able to go no further. It just seemed stuck. So that man in his kindness decided to help. Taking a pair of scissors, he snipped off the remaining bit of the cocoon. The butterfly then emerged easily.

The man expected that at any moment, the shrivelled wings would enlarge and expand and the swollen body would contract and the creature would flutter by. It did not happen! In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around. It was never able to fly.

The man in his kindness and haste did not understand the restricting cocoon and the struggle required to get through the tiny opening were God's way of forcing fluid from the body of the butterfly into its wings, so that it would be ready for flight.

Sometimes, struggles are exactly what we need in our lives. If God allowed us to go through our lives without any obstacles, it would cripple us. We would not be as strong as we could have been. We could never fly!

Anon





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR GARDEN?

- 1) Check plants daily and water them if the soil is dry, especially newly planted fruit trees and shrubs that are still getting established.
- 2) Harden off any remaining half-hardy bedding plants ready for planting out.
- 3) Keep on top of weeding.
- 4) Lift and divide clumps of Snowdrops and Bluebells once the leaves start to yellow.
- 5) Continue to water your flowering Rhododendrons, using rainwater where possible.
- 6) Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of flower bulbs and tubers.
- 7) Pinch out tips of Fuschias to encourage a bushy habit and more flowers.
- 8) Start to pick Sweet Peas as soon as they flower to encourage more blooms.
- 9) Dead head your Roses.
- 10) Stake tall perennial plants to prevent wind damage.
- 11) Tie in new shoots of Honeysuckle and Clematis.
- 12) Towards the end of June, if your hardy Geraniums have finished flowering, cut them back to encourage new foliage and flowers.

13) If there has not been much rain, raise your lawn mower blades to reduce the stress on the grass.

14) Keep new lawns well watered.

15) Feed your lawn with a special lawn fertiliser to encourage healthy green growth.

Greenfingers



Song of Solomon 2:12

**The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of
birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our
land;**



COME INTO MY KITCHEN.....

Galette is a term used in French cuisine to designate various types of flat round or freeform crusty cakes or tarts or, in the case of Breton galette, a pancake made with buckwheat flour, usually with a savoury filling.

They make a lovely summer lunch or supper dish or can be used as part of a picnic or alfresco dining.

SUMMER VEGETABLE AND FETA GALETTE

SERVES 2 OR 4 FOR A LIGHT LUNCH

75g Feta
20g soft herbs (perhaps basil, parsley, dill)
finely grated zest of 1 lemon, plus a squeeze of juice
1 shallot, finely sliced
100g seasonal green veg, such as mangetout, peas, broad beans, finely sliced courgette, asparagus
1tsp extra virgin olive oil, plus extra to drizzle
320g sheet shortcrust pastry
1 medium egg, beaten
½tsp nigella seeds (optional)
2tbsp natural yogurt (optional)
pinch of sumac (optional)

Put the feta, herbs and lemon zest into a food processor or blender and whizz into a fine green mixture. Put the sliced shallot into a bowl with the other vegetables, the oil and a squeeze of lemon juice then season with salt and pepper and mix to coat.

Heat the oven to 200C/fan180C/gas 6 with a large, flat baking sheet inside to heat up.

Keep the pastry on the sheet of baking paper it comes in and prick the centre with a fork, leaving a border (around 3-5cm) around the outside. Spread the feta mixture over the pricked centre, then lay the sliced vegetables on top. Fold the exposed pastry borders towards the centre to create a rustic pleated edge. Brush the pastry edges with egg wash, then sprinkle with nigella seeds if using.

Remove the hot tray from the oven and carefully slide the galette (still on the baking paper) onto it. Bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes until the pastry base is cooked through and crisp underneath. Once out of the oven, drizzle with a little extra virgin olive oil, then stir the sumac into the yogurt and serve on the side.

TOMATO GALETTE

SERVES 8

500g tomatoes (use a mixture of sizes and colours), cut into ½ cm pieces

50g gruyere, coarsely grated

1 garlic clove, finely grated

1tbsp chopped oregano or thyme

FOR THE PASTRY (or you could use ready-made)

225g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

100g cold butter, cut into cubes

2 eggs plus extra beaten egg for brushing

Tip the tomatoes into a colander set over a large bowl, sprinkle over 1tsp salt and set aside for 1 hour to draw out the moisture.

Meanwhile make the pastry. Tip the flour, butter and a good pinch of salt into a food processor and blitz to a breadcrumb-like consistency. Beat the eggs in a jug then tip into the processor and pulse to a soft dough – if it seems dry, add ½tsp cold water at a time until it comes together. Shape into a disc, then wrap and chill for 20 minutes.

Heat the oven to 180C/160Cfan/Gas 4. Tip the tomatoes into a large bowl with the cheese, garlic, herbs and a good grinding of black pepper. Gently combine, using your hands, and set aside.

Roll the chilled pastry out on a lightly floured surface to a roughly 30cm circle. Pile the tomato mixture into the middle, leaving a roughly 5cm border around the edge. Brush the exposed pastry border with some beaten egg then fold the border up so it slightly overlaps the tomato filling. (It doesn't need to be even or neat).

Brush the pastry with more beaten egg, then bake for 40-50 minutes until the pastry is golden and the tomatoes have softened and are tender.

And now for a sweet alternative to impress family and friends alike!

CARAMELISED BANANA AND CHOCOLATE GALETTE

SERVES 6

70g hazelnuts, roughly chopped
150g dark chocolate, finely chopped
500g block puff pastry
3 bananas, sliced
3tbsp light soft brown sugar

Vanilla ice cream, to serve

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6.

Blitz 50g of the hazelnuts in a small processor until they resemble fine breadcrumbs, then tip into a bowl with the chocolate.

Roll the pastry into a round roughly 30cm in diameter on a sheet of baking parchment. Scatter the chocolate and hazelnut mixture over the pastry circle, leaving a 5cm border. Top with the bananas and most of the remaining hazelnuts, then fold the edges of the pastry over. Transfer to a baking sheet along with the baking parchment then chill in the fridge for at least 10mins.

Remove from the fridge and sprinkle the sugar over the galette, then bake for 25-30mins or until golden and puffed up. Scatter over the remaining hazelnuts and serve with a scoop of the ice cream.

Maggie

Rogation Sunday

21 of us gathered on Sunday 14th May for our annual walk around the Parish followed by ice cream in Hove Park. What a joyous afternoon.





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

FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES

Our afternoon concert series continues with

Imogen Ryall Duo

1.10 p.m. on Friday 16th June

The Recital is for approximately 40 minutes

Refreshments provided.

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

All welcome!



JUNE FESTIVALS AND SAINTS.

4th June – Trinity Sunday

This is the central dogma of Christian theology, that one God exists in Three Persons and One Substance. This doctrine is held to be a mystery in the strict sense, in that it can neither be known by unaided human reason apart from revelation, nor cogently demonstrated by reason after it has been revealed. Although the mystery is above reason it is not contrary to reason. Although not explicit in the Bible there are many passages in St John's Gospel where Jesus refers to he and the Father being one and the Holy Spirit. John 14.11, 16 and 26. In St Matthew we have the baptismal formula of Matt. 28.19, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

Here is part of the Athanasian Creed stating the belief in more detail.

And the catholic faith is this, that we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost is all one: the glory equal, the majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated, the Son uncreated, and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father incomprehensible, the Son incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost incomprehensible. The Father eternal, the Son eternal, and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three Eternals, but one Eternal. As there are not three Uncreated nor three Incomprehensibles, but one Uncreated and one Incomprehensible. So likewise the Father is almighty, the Son almighty, and the Holy Ghost almighty. And yet they are not three Almightyies, but one Almighty.

8th June – Corpus Christi

Today is appointed in the calendar as a Day of Thanksgiving for the Institution of Holy Communion. Added to that description are the Latin words by which the Thursday after Trinity Sunday is more commonly known among those who celebrate it — *Corpus Christi*, the Body of Christ. The festival day has been overlaid with all sorts of rite and ceremonial that emphasise an aspect of some beliefs, namely that the elements of bread and wine, after the priestly prayer of consecration really are the body and blood of Christ, and therefore

are to be adored in the same way that we might adore Christ or a relic of Christ.

The history of this day is that it commemorates the Last Supper. Maundy Thursday also commemorates the Supper but coming in Holy Week and beginning the great Three Days of the paschal feast, there are other things that rightly take priority. So, with the three paschal days complete, and the fifty days of Eastertide complete, and the old week (or *octave*) of Pentecost complete, this is the first Thursday available for the commemoration. Having a separate festival of the Eucharist allows the celebration not to be muted by sadness.

After the Reformation, the feast ceased to be celebrated in the Church of England. When the Oxford Movement gathered momentum in the latter half of the 19th Century many Anglo-Catholic parishes restored Reservation of the Sacrament and introduced Corpus Christi processions and adoration. Our Eucharistic joy compels us to go out unto the world and share that joy by helping to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and free the oppressed.

29th June - Feast of S Peter (Our Patron Saint)

Saint Peter (d. c. 64AD), originally called Simon, was a married fisherman from Bethsaida, near the Sea of Galilee. He met Jesus through his brother, Andrew. Jesus gave him the name of Cephas (Peter) which means rock. Peter is always named first in the list of apostles. He was one of the three apostles who were privileged to witness the Transfiguration, the raising of the daughter of Jairus, and the Agony in the Garden.

When Peter made his famous confession of faith, that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus recognised it as being the result of a revelation from the Father. Jesus told Peter that he would be the rock on which his Church would be built, that the 'gates of hell' would never prevail against it. Peter and the apostles would have the power of 'binding and loosing', but Peter would be personally given 'the keys of the kingdom of heaven'. Jesus also forewarned Peter of his betrayal and subsequent strengthening of the other apostles. After his Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Peter before the other apostles, and later entrusted him with the mission to feed both the lambs and the sheep of Christ's flock. (This is depicted on the window in our Chapel.)

Peter played a big part in the early Church. He is mentioned many times in the Book of Acts, where in the early chapters he organised the choice of Judas' successor, preached with stirring authority at Pentecost; and was the very first apostle to work a miracle. Peter went on to defend the apostles' right to teach at the Sanhedrin, and to condemn Ananias and Sapphira. It was Peter who first realised that Christianity was also for the gentiles, after his meeting with Cornelius. Later he took a prominent part in the council at Jerusalem and went on to clash with St Paul at Antioch for hesitating about eating with gentiles.

Early tradition links Peter with an apostolate and martyrdom at Rome. The New Testament does not tell us either way, but Peter being in Rome would make sense, especially as Peter's first epistle refers to 'Babylon', which was usually identified with Rome. Peter's presence in Rome is mentioned by early church fathers such as Clement of Rome and Irenaeus. Tradition also tells us that Peter suffered under Nero and was crucified head-downwards. There is no conclusive proof either way that St Peter's relics are at the Vatican, but it is significant that Rome is the only city that ever claimed to be Peter's place of death.

St Peter was a major influence on Mark when writing his gospel, and the First Epistle of Peter was very probably his. (Many scholars believe that the Second Epistle that carries his name was written at a later date.)

From very early times Peter was invoked by Christians as a universal saint. He was the heavenly doorkeeper, the patron of the Church and the papacy, a saint both powerful and accessible and one with whom it is easy to identify because of his human frailties.

In England, there were important dedications to Peter from early times: monasteries such as Canterbury, Glastonbury, Malmesbury, Peterborough, Lindisfarne, Whitby, Wearmouth, and especially Westminster. Cathedrals were named after him, too: York, Lichfield, Worcester and Selby. In all, it has been calculated that 1,129 pre-Reformation churches were dedicated to St Peter, and another 283 to Saints Peter and Paul together.

Images of Peter are innumerable, but his portraiture remains curiously the same: a man with a square face, a bald or tonsured head, and a short square, curly beard. Not surprisingly, his chief emblem is a set of keys, sometimes along with a ship or fish.

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David Tildesley
Window Doctor



Window
Doctor

☎ 01273 276 522
☎ 07710 030 179
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MONEY MATTERS - Figures for April 2023

Receipts

Planned Giving	£	3165
Income tax recovered	£	629
Community Centre Income	£	1030
Collections/other giving	£	130
Keynotes subs & adverts	£	28
Pay Donation Station/Sundry Donations	£	681
Fund Raising	£	136
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£	5799

Payments

Parish Contribution	£	6304
Salaries	£	788
Utilities and Insurance	£	509
Church maintenance	£	196
Rectory	£	330
Community Centre running costs	£	185
Upkeep of services	£	313
Sum Up/Bank Charges	£	20
Fundraising expenses	£	35
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£	8680

Year to date deficit £12,469



Date	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for June (Year A)
THURS 1ST	All people suffering persecution
FRI 2ND	All youth workers
SAT 3RD	All teachers
SUN 4TH	Trinity Sunday Isaiah 40. 12-17, 27-end 2 Corinthians 13. 11-end Matthew 28. 16-end
MON 5TH	All teaching support staff
TUES 6TH	Doctors, Nurses and Health care professionals
WEDS 7TH	Peace in the Holy Land
THURS 8TH	All Church musicians
FRI 9TH	Hove Deanery Synod
SAT 10TH	Our Choir
SUN 11TH	1st Sunday after Trinity Genesis 12.1-9 Romans 4. 13-end Matthew 9.9 - 13, 18-26
MON 12TH	Our Suffragan Bishops, Ruth and Will
TUES 13TH	Brighton & Hove City Council
WEDS 14TH	Local Businesses
THURS 15TH	Our prayer life

	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for June (Year A)
FRI 16TH	All Clergy
SAT 17TH	Our Foodbank
SUN 18TH	Second Sunday after Trinity Genesis 18. 1-15 Romans 5. 1-8 Matthew 9. 35-10.8
MON 19TH	Social Justice
TUES 20TH	All involved in the distribution of food
WEDS 21ST	All Farmers
THURS 22ND	The Bishop's Council
FRI 23RD	All food manufacturers
SAT 24TH	Courage to proclaim the Gospel
SUN 25TH	Third Sunday after Trinity Genesis 21. 8-21 Romans 6. 1b-11 Matthew 10. 24-39
MON 26TH	All cleaning services
TUES 27TH	Bishop Martin
WEDS 28TH	Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East
THURS 29TH	Spread of the Gospel
FRI 30TH	All hospital chaplains

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And finally.....

Dear Father,

As we come to this beautiful time of year, the month of June, we thank you for the wonder of your creation and the way our spirits are lifted as we see all around us the freshness of a new summer.

This month we remember Barnabas, whose name means, child of encouragement. He was a good person, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. Lord, help each of us to be a Barnabas to someone today, to encourage and lift up, led by your Holy Spirit and full of faith.

Help us to share your love and goodness, especially with those whose circumstances are difficult. Help us all to trust you through good times and testing times, knowing you are always with us, always encouraging us, always faithful.

In Jesus' name. Amen

