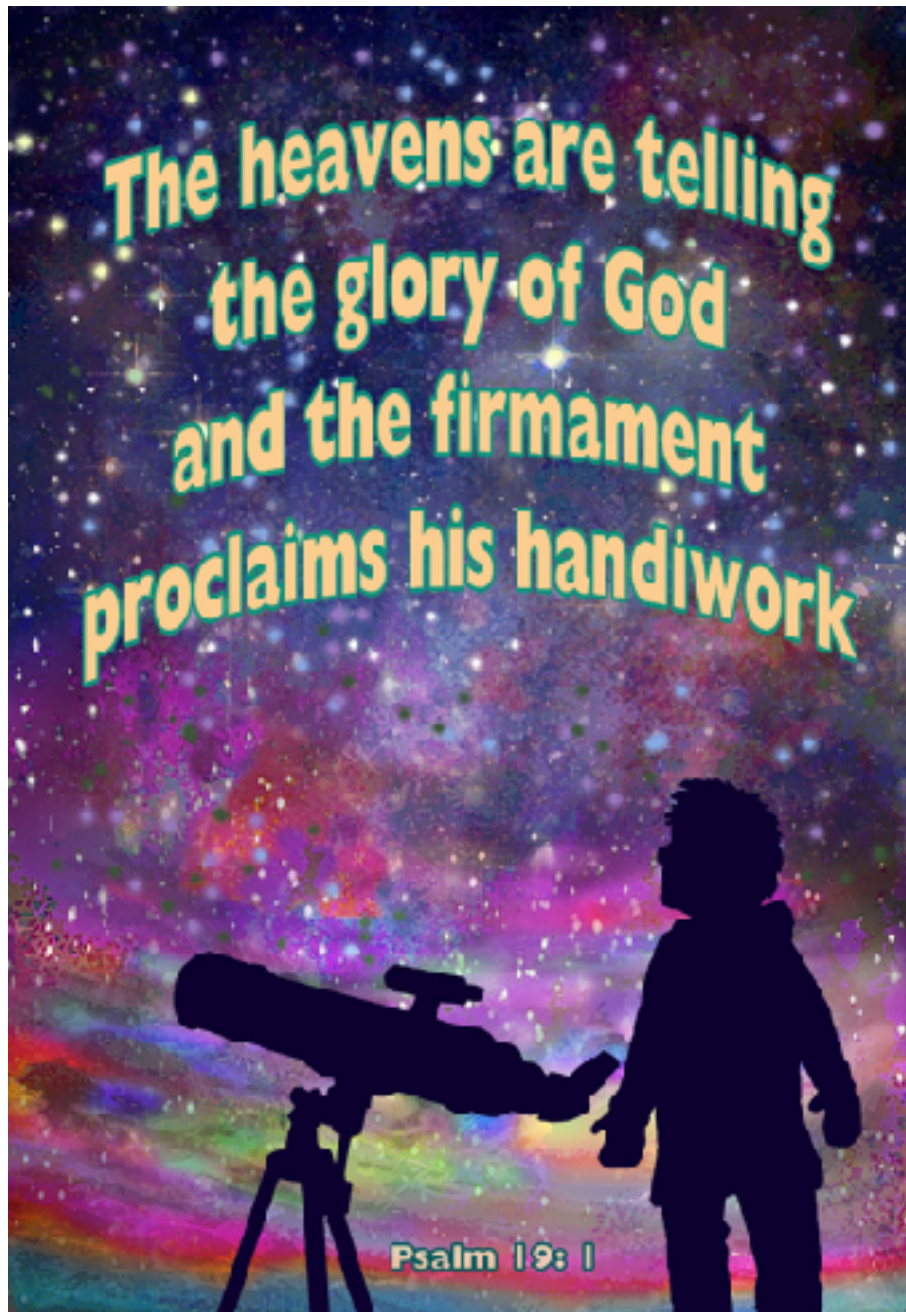


KEYNOTES



June 2024
£1.00

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER'S, WEST BLATCHINGTON

Rector The Rev Tim Gage
The Rectory
23 Windmill Close
Hove, BN3 7LJ

Tel: 01273 270427

Email: rector.westblatchington@gmail.com

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

CURATE Rev Jan Butter Tel: 07889 400889

Email: westblatchingtoncurate@outlook.com

CHURCHWARDENS Jonathan Cooke Tel: 07973 851174

David Keeling Tel: 01273 501504

HON. TREASURER Mandy Gander Tel: 01273 271982

CENTRE BOOKINGS Maria Williams Tel: 01273 721918

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Sick Visiting Carol Gander Tel: 01273 555414

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Church website: www.stpeterswestblatchington.org.uk

PARISH EVENTS DIARY

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

Saturday 15th June - 11.30am to 2.30pm - Summer Fair

**Friday 21st June - 1.10pm - Free lunchtime concert -
Margaret Watson - Harp**

**Saturday 29th June - 1.10pm - Free lunchtime concert -
Rebelles - Ladies singing group**

Saturday 13th July - 7.30pm - St Peter's Got Talent

**Saturday 20th July - 1.10pm - Free lunchtime concert -
Brighton Guitar Quartet**

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

The deadline for the July/August issue is
6th June



EDITORIAL

Welcome to the June edition of Keynotes.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) took place on 28 April which was preceded by an Annual Parish Meeting so that a Resolution could be agreed that the section relating to the maximum continuous period of six years which churchwardens can serve does not apply. This was duly carried. David Keeling and Jonathan Cooke were then 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. Carol Gander has rejoined the PCC which is good news.

We now look forward to the Summer Fair on the 15 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 June will be a bumper month. The next one, on Friday 21 June, features a return of our much loved harpist, Margaret Watson. Then, for the first time, we have a second lunchtime concert. On Saturday 29 June a ladies singing group called the Rebelles will be entertaining us with a mix of songs.

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.

And finally, a big welcome from the rest of the Editorial Committee to Christine James who has now joined us.

Editorial Team

Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

– Matthew 11:28

RECTOR'S RAMBLINGS

Reflecting on Our Journey: Insights from Our APCM

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit." John 15:1-2

During our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), we paused to reflect on the collective efforts of our congregation in sustaining and enriching our mission. Alongside offering gratitude to God, we sought His divine guidance for the journey ahead.

Through recent prayer and reflection, I've discerned two focal points demanding our attention: **Healing and Growth**.

At a recent All-age service prayer activity, numerous individuals shared requests for challenging circumstances in their lives, underscoring the urgent need for healing. Additionally, there's been a noticeable uptake in individuals grappling with physical, emotional, or spiritual discomfort.

Drawing inspiration from Jesus' teachings in John 15, we glean insights into the pathways of Healing and Growth with authenticity and purpose. In addressing Healing, we recognise the significance of both pruning and cleansing in the ongoing discipleship of Christians.

Pruning involves God's transformative act of trimming away unfruitful aspects, offering comfort amidst trials by highlighting His capacity to bring forth good from adversity. **Cleansing** facilitates renewal and liberation from burdens, ushering in freedom from the entanglements of sin and shame.

As a flourishing church community, our commitment to evangelism, outreach, and worship accessibility remains steadfast. While numerical growth is a goal, it's equally vital for every member of St. Peter's to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ through engagement with the Bible, prayer, and worship.

Following Jesus' counsel to **abide** in Him, we pave the way for bearing **fruit** that enriches His kingdom.

Remaining rooted in our connection to Jesus, both individually and collectively as a church family.

Finally, I want to personally thank each every one of you who have contributed in service, prayer, and generosity at St. Peter's, enabling us to embody our vision of being a family church with Jesus at its heart.

God bless
Rev. Tim



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WOMEN'S SOCIAL GROUP

On the 25th April we had a coffee morning at church, which started with a very enlightening talk given by Sidonia Porteous, who manages the Victim Support charity, Moz presented her with a cheque for just over £2000 from our social group, which was very much appreciated.

Our next Coffee morning was at Jean's home on the 9th May and on the 23rd Rev Jan gave us a talk at church, followed by refreshments, as usual.

Our first meeting in June is on the 13th and will be lunch and a visit to a garden (venue to be announced) There is of course the Church Summer Fair on 15th June and on the 27th a Coffee morning at Iris'.

The birthdays in June will be: Alma on the 9th, Stella on the 16th and Jane Cummings on the 29th.

Georgette Bassant



USING REST TO PRAY

Most of us think of prayer as a very demanding activity, but did you know it can be extremely restful?

One of the great verses in the Bible says this: 'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46:10). It suggests we experience God most fully when we are still. When we cease rushing around, pausing for a moment of thought and recollection, we are becoming prayerful, and God is very near. Even a break for a morning coffee can be a moment of prayer, if we slow ourselves down and allow our thoughts to turn towards God.

An essential part of resting is to breathe slowly. Christian tradition has always made a connection between prayer and breathing. You can learn to pray to the rhythm of your breathing, using chosen prayer words to focus. As you breathe in, you might say 'Abba', and then as you breathe out, add the word 'Father'. Choose words which are meaningful to you, deliberately slowing your breathing so you become relaxed and peaceful.

Perhaps you have a favourite chair where you are able to unwind easily. For a few moments sit and do nothing. Simply become aware of the present moment, reminding yourself you are in the presence of God. As you feel yourself relax, bask in the knowledge of God's love and acceptance of you. Sense His smile of approval upon you. You don't have to do anything, just 'be' for a moment. This too is prayer.

Sometimes we are forced to rest by circumstances... illness, disability, growing older and so on slow us down and we can't rush around like we used to do. Never mind. Don't fight against your circumstances. Enter into the place of rest that God is giving you. He loves you for who you are, not for what you do. Turn your thoughts into prayer and offer them to God. You don't need to advise God as to what He should do; simply hold people before Him, leaving the outcome to Him.

Prayer should be a natural expression of our relationship with God. Sometimes we have words, sometimes silence is enough. We don't need to impress God with our fervour. We can relax and be rested, even as we pray.

Editor: by the Revd Dr Roger Roberts



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Techie trouble

The vicar at our local church experienced some technical problems with the sound system one Sunday. Instead of starting the service as usual with 'The Lord be with you', he said: "There's something wrong with the microphone."

Not hearing this, the congregation responded: "And also with you."

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ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Our APCM took place on the 28th April. Please find below a copy of the reports that were read out.

Churchwardens' Report

David Keeling and Jonathan Cooke were again elected as churchwardens at the Annual Parish Meeting on 23rd April 2023, which was chaired by our Rector, the Rev Tim Gage.

We are delighted that worship has continued with lively morning Sunday services and a measurable increase in attendance, especially with more young people. With the installation of a brand new audio-visual system we are now able to broadcast services live online, via YouTube, meaning that people now have the choice of viewing and participating in a service as it is happening but also continue to have the option of seeing it as a recording later. Meanwhile, for congregations in the church there is the added facility of being able to read hymns and prayers on one of three large screens instead of having to read hymn books and service sheets, although that remains an option for those who prefer it.

Our Sunday services are supplemented by quiet, reflective bi-monthly Wednesday evening services in the Old Church, one being a Eucharist and the other a service of prayer with Compline. On the other Wednesday evenings there is Bible study, with an option to attend sessions on those Wednesday mornings.

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. The Quinquennial Inspection carried out in October by our Inspecting Architect highlighted a few items calling for attention, again all relatively minor, to which we shall be turning our attention to in the coming months. We are grateful for the ongoing support of our gardening volunteers, led by Barry, who managed to keep the churchyard immaculate throughout the year.

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, including liaison with our Inspecting 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 that we receive, in carrying out our duties, from the congregation, the PCC and our clergy.

Jonathan Cooke and David Keeling

Treasurer's Report

This time last year when I stood here I was feeling rather glum and reported an unsustainable deficit of £26k and was feeling extremely worried about St Peter's financial future. I talked about our 'journey of generosity' which we launched in September which is to be a 3 to 5 year journey to help us become self supporting. And your response was incredible and the uplift in giving was increased by 35%. So despite another deficit for 2023, I am feeling much more positive. Thank you to everyone that responded, whether you agreed to keep your giving the same, to those that agreed to increase their giving and to some that agreed to start a regular donation. A huge thank you from me on behalf of all the PCC.

In 2023 we finished the year with a £54,149 deficit. However, £35,963 was spent on installing the new video live streaming system which has enhanced our Sunday services. We were delighted to have been given 4 donations towards the VLS totalling £7,801 as well as a £5k legacy and with the uplift in giving, I am praying that this time next year, I will be giving you some much nicer news. In fact we had a surplus of funds in both January & February this year! Very encouraging.

Our planned giving was £38,589 last year which was a slight increase in the previous year with a total of 58 families now giving a regular donation to our Church.

The payaz donation station has been a real asset to our Church and donations in excess of £5k were put through it in 2023, an approximate 55% increase in collections compared to pre-pandemic figures.

Our fundraising income totalled an amazing £7,269 despite not having a Christmas Fair. A full list of events is listed in our activity booklet. 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 and is now at full capacity. At other times the Community centre is rented out for events and parties and gave us a total income last year of £13,992 This is slightly down on the previous year, but with the increase in the cost of the rental in 2024, this figure should look better going forward. 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 £9,980 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 Easyfundraising schemes provided us with a small quarterly income. Please 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 one legacy last year of £1000 from the late John Lockyer. John was a big part of St Peter's for many years and we are very grateful to him. 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.

Our main expense for 2023 was £75,644 on Parish Ministry costs which covers Clergy stipend, national insurance, pension and housing as well as training, Parish support and central Church administration.

All other items of expenditure are listed in the accounts & most have increased on previous years, due to inflation and general day to day living increases.

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

Our investment with CBF was valued at £185,128 on the 31st December 2023. We had to use £55k of these funds to help with the ongoing costs of running the Church as well as the VLS. 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. We have now started to receive credit interest on our funds which was a nice surprise.

Our wages costs increased by 10% on the previous year and I am extremely grateful to Gill Evans and Jane Glineur for continuing to play the piano at services 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.

Mandy Gander



Keep it short

The minister stood up and said: "Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. You'll be glad to know that when I asked my secretary to type this sermon out for me I asked her to eliminate any thing that was dull or confusing. So, in conclusion...."



Our charity for June is Whoopsadaisy

They provide life-changing learning programmes for children with a wide range of diagnosed and undiagnosed physical disabilities.

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

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

Since then, they are proud to have supported many more children with disabilities to live full and independent lives.

Their services are free thanks to the incredible generosity of their supporters.

Please support them if you can.

Swifts by Michael Blencowe for Sussex Wildlife Trust

These are uncertain times. Who knows where this planet is heading? But since the start of May I've been looking to the sky for a sign of reassurance: the return of the Sussex Swifts from Africa. Ted Hughes expressed it perfectly: "They've made it again / Which means the globe's still working, the Creation's / Still waking refreshed, our summer's / Still all to come."

Swifts may not look like much - they're basically two wings and a mouth - but it's hard to explain their abilities without making them sound supernatural. Swifts are all about flying. They feed, scream, and mate in the air and bathe in the rainclouds. At night they switch off half their brain, switch on cruise control and fall asleep amongst the stars. If they had their way they would never come down. But there's one little flaw in their plan: eggs don't float. So, for just a few weeks of the year, they begrudgingly swap the open skies for a cramped nest under the eaves where they raise their young. The problem is in recent years most of these little gaps have been lost to renovations and modern architecture. The destruction of their homes is one of the reasons why Swift numbers have fallen. They are refugees on the wind.

They cruised into Sussex in May after a non-stop, long-haul flight from Africa; not that this trip bothered them. Swifts are all about flying. For me, the Swift is the only bird that takes pure, unadulterated pleasure in flying. Other birds fly out of necessity, but Swifts seem to fly for the joy of it, screaming with delight at the top of their little Swift lungs, a shrill cry that is forever associated with English summers.



By the time you read this, a new generation of Sussex Swifts, born in a roof cavity, have crawled to the nest entrance, and bravely launched themselves on their first flights. And what a first flight - they may not land again for two or three years! For these 'teenage' Swifts, the skies of Europe and Africa will be their playground. Nothing will tame them. Well, not until they meet a partner and decide to settle down in a roof of their own somewhere. But don't let this comfortable image of domestic bliss fool you - there's no taming these Wild Ones.



When it was Mrs Wilson's turn to do the flower arrangements, she always kept the vicar's hay fever in mind

Rogation Sunday



10 Christians plus me from St.Peter's walked the Rogation of St.Peter's Parish on Sunday 5th May from 2pm. Up King George VI Drive or Snakey Hill as we call it, gathered at the top of the three cornered copse and walked down through the trees to Hove Park. There we stopped for a coffee at the mobile coffee van as the Hove Park cafe was being renovated.

Zanita



Prayer List Requests

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

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

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

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



St Peter's Pastoral Care Group

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

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

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

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Craft Afternoon on Saturday 27th April

This was a new event of this type for St Peter's and the theme was "By, In or On the Sea".

Lots of different crafts were available for children and adults alike. There was colouring, painting, stencils, foil art, collage and mosaic using material, paper, shells, buttons, ribbons and straws etc. Pictures were made using pebbles, shells, paints and material and showed great thought and imagination. Large shells were also painted with great diversity and colour.



In the centre was a large collage of God's wonderful undersea creatures and everyone was asked to contribute something to this and the end result was really amazing.

The age range of those taking part ranged from 3 to 80 +years and all seemed to enjoy trying new skills. All afternoon there was a lovely atmosphere of busy and fun industry.

Refreshments were available alongside lovely cakes all made by church members, many thanks to them and to all the helpers on the day and those who supplied items for the crafts.

Christine James



For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving.

- 1 Timothy 4:4

People and Places of the Bible

As the Book of Acts is the subject of our Bible Study, I thought it would be useful to cover these topics in some detail and since there are Caesarea Maritima and Caesarea Philippi to separate them. The Hellenistic influence is important in the history of the early church.

Herod Agrippa

Herod Agrippa I, a key figure during a critical period in early Christian history, was the grandson of Herod the Great and ruled Judea with a blend of political acumen and allegiance to Jewish traditions. His reign, though short-lived from AD 41 to 44, left significant marks both politically and in the narratives of the New Testament.

Born around 10 BC, Agrippa was educated in Rome, where he developed close ties with future emperors, Gaius (Caligula) and Claudius. These relationships proved crucial throughout his career, aiding his ascension to power and expansion of his kingdom to eventually include all of Judea and Samaria, thus restoring the dominion once held by his grandfather.

Agrippa's affiliation with Rome was a cornerstone of his rule. His ability to maintain favour with the emperors, coupled with his genuine concern for his Jewish subjects, allowed him to navigate the complexities of governance under Roman oversight effectively. He was known for his efforts to advocate on behalf of the Jewish people to the Roman authorities, particularly in persuading Caligula to retract his decision to place an imperial statue in the Temple of Jerusalem, a move that would have inflamed Jewish-Roman tensions.

Herod Agrippa I is mentioned in the Book of Acts. Acts 12 details his role in the persecution of early Christians. His most dramatic interaction involves the arrest and subsequent miraculous escape of Peter from prison. This chapter also describes Agrippa's violent end. After accepting praise from the people of Tyre and Sidon, who declared him to be a god, Agrippa did not give glory to God. According to Acts, he was struck down by an angel of the Lord and died "eaten by worms."

Agrippa's actions towards Christians reflect a complex character who was deeply entrenched in the political and religious dynamics of his time.

His persecution of Christians, including the execution of James, the brother of John, and the arrest of Peter, was likely an attempt to appease the Jewish majority and solidify his rule by demonstrating his fidelity to Jewish law and traditions.

Herod Agrippa I's reign was marked by a keen understanding of power dynamics, a balancing act between appeasing Roman overlords and managing local Jewish sentiments. His sudden and dramatic death served as a stark biblical example of divine retribution for hubris.

In summary, Herod Agrippa I's life and reign are crucial for understanding the political, religious, and social undercurrents of Judea during an era of significant upheaval and transformation. His interactions with early Christians and his complex relationships with both Roman and Jewish authorities offer insights into the challenges and conflicts of the period, marking him as a pivotal figure in both Jewish and Christian historical narratives.

Caesarea

Caesarea Maritima, often simply known as Caesarea, holds a significant place in Christian history as recorded in the New Testament. Founded between 22-10 BC by Herod the Great on the site of a former Phoenician naval station, Strato's Tower, Caesarea was named in honour of the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus. As the seat of Roman governors, this Mediterranean port city was not only an administrative hub but also a vibrant setting for the cultural and religious exchanges that shaped early Christianity.

Caesarea was renowned for its architectural grandeur, featuring a deep-sea harbour, a Roman aqueduct, an amphitheatre, and a hippodrome. The city's importance stemmed from its strategic location as a major port on the Mediterranean coast of Judea, linking the Roman Empire to the eastern territories. This made it a crucial centre for trade, governance, and military operations.

While the Gospels do not directly mention Jesus visiting Caesarea, the city's broader socio-political context is crucial for understanding the environment of his ministry. Caesarea was a symbol of Roman authority and Hellenistic influence in Judea, against which many of Jesus' teachings subtly positioned themselves. The city's presence looms in the background of the Gospels as a representation of the pervasive Roman rule during Jesus' life.

The Book of Acts highlights Caesarea's pivotal role in early Christian history, marking it as a venue for significant events:

Acts 10 recounts one of the most transformative events in Christian history occurring in Caesarea. Here, Peter has a vision that leads him to preach to Cornelius, a Roman centurion, and his household. This event underscores the opening of the Christian community to Gentiles, illustrating the breaking of traditional Jewish boundaries and setting the stage for the global spread of Christianity.

Paul spent two years imprisoned in Caesarea (Acts 24:27), during which he defended himself before Roman officials like Felix, Festus, and King Agrippa II. His speeches in Caesarea are crucial for understanding his theology and the legal challenges early Christians faced. His time in Caesarea ended with his appeal to Caesar, leading to his transfer to Rome, which facilitated the further spread of Christian teachings.

Caesarea also served as a home to Philip the Evangelist (Acts 21:8), one of the first deacons and a key figure in the early Church. His presence in Caesarea signifies the city's role as a Christian community hub and a strategic base for missionary activities.

Caesarea Philippi

Both Caesarea Maritima and Caesarea Philippi were significantly influenced by Hellenistic culture, which is reflected in their architecture, political structures, and the prevalence of Greek language and customs. This cultural backdrop is crucial for understanding several narratives in the New Testament, particularly those involving figures like Stephen and Philip, who were likely Hellenized Jews.

Caesarea Maritima as a major port city established by Herod the Great, was designed to embody the grandeur of Roman and Hellenistic architecture and urban planning. The city served as the capital of the Roman province of Judea and was a centre of economic and administrative activities. Its populace was diverse, comprising Romans, Greeks, Jews, and other ethnic groups, which necessitated a broad cultural perspective and often brought Greek customs and language into daily affairs.

Caesarea Philippi known for its Greek names and the worship of Greek gods, particularly Pan (known to the Romans as Faunus), Caesarea Philippi was a centre for pagan worship and Hellenistic culture. The city's religious diversity and its location away from the predominantly Jewish regions further south made it a crossroads of various cultural and theological ideas.

In the context of early Christianity, the Hellenistic influence is evident in the way the church addressed its diverse membership. Figures like Stephen and Philip, who are mentioned in the Book of Acts, are indicative of the Hellenistic influence within the early Christian community. Both were among the seven men chosen to serve as deacons in what appears to be an early church administrative role, specifically to address the needs of the Greek-speaking widows in the community (Acts 6:1-6).

William Holden - Drawn from various sources

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Song of Solomon 2:12 KJV

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;

St Peter's Got Talent

On Saturday 13th July at 7.30pm in our Community Centre, we will be holding a talent show, so its time to start practising your talent ready to show it off.

Please can you email Mandy direct if you wish to take part and what your act will be so we can get a programme of events prepared. mandycgander@icloud.com

Many thanks



For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

– Matthew 7:8

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.

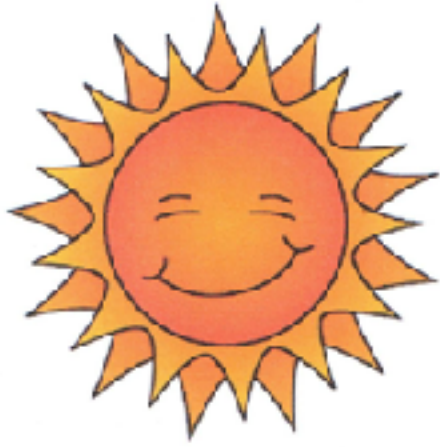
Mandy has produced a list of items which may appeal to the congregation and any discussion can be held in confidence with her. This list includes the following;

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Easter Paschal Candle	£	56.25
Welcome packs and pens	£	103.79
Sunday School supplies	£	87.35
Palm Crosses	£	8.31
Annual fire extinguisher maintenance	£	140.94
Eggs for children's Easter Egg hunt	£	10.00
New shelves for Tea & Tots	£	164.00

Thank you for your sponsorship

Our grateful thanks go to the person who wishing to remain anonymous, very kindly donated the cost of the books for the Alpha course.

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.



Summer Fair

St Peter's, West Blatchington

June 15th 2024

11.30 am—2.30 pm

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The Victorian Church – A Time of Change in the Church and Society.

Way back in my early days as a Reader I participated in a series of sermons at Evensong on the Victorian Church. Paul Way was Rector then and it was the early 1970's. As you will see in the article below the Victorian era was a time of radical change in the socio-economic environment, in science and in religion. Read on!

Having mapped out the topics to be covered I anticipate that it will take at least eight articles to cover the subject. In today's article I am giving an overview of what will be covered..

Introduction to the Church of England in the Victorian Era

The Victorian era was a time of profound transformation for the Church of England. As the church navigated through the complexities of industrialization, urbanization, and significant socio-political changes, it faced challenges and opportunities that reshaped its structure, beliefs, and societal roles. This series of articles will explore seven key aspects of the Church of England during this pivotal period:

1. **Socio-Economic Background.** The rapid industrial growth and urban expansion during the Victorian era dramatically altered the social landscape. The Church of England had to respond to the burgeoning urban populations living in often deplorable conditions, and the rise of the industrial middle class. This article will examine how the church addressed these changes through its missions and involvement in social reforms, influenced by movements like those led by Quaker families such as the Cadburys and Rowntrees.
2. **The State of the Church in Relation to the People.** As society evolved, so too did the relationship between the Church and its congregations. This article will discuss the Church's efforts to remain relevant amid growing secularism and competition from non-conformist religious groups, focusing on its urban missions and the adaptations to its pastoral care to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse populace.
3. **Leading Churchmen and Their Influence.** Influential figures such as Archbishop Archibald Tait and Bishop Edward King played pivotal roles in shaping the Church's response to Victorian challenges. This article will profile these and other key leaders, exploring their theological stances and contributions to the Church's evolution during the era.

4. **Leading Church Scholars.** The era was also marked by significant theological debates that were influenced by contemporary biblical scholarship and the nascent science of biblical criticism. Scholars like F.D. Maurice and Charles Gore wrestled with integrating this new scholarship with traditional Christian doctrines. This article will delve into their works and the broader intellectual challenges they addressed.
5. **The Church and Relations with the State.** The established status of the Church of England as the state church meant that it had considerable influence over British legislation and social policy. This article will explore key legislative actions and the Church's involvement in education and social welfare, reflecting on the implications of its privileged position.
6. **The Church's Involvement with Anti-Slavery.** The Church's role in the abolition of slavery and other moral reforms highlights its complex position in societal ethics and politics. This article will trace the evolution of the Church's stance on slavery, from initial complicity to eventual advocacy, and its broader engagement in Victorian social reform movements.
7. **Significant Court Cases Involving the Church.** Several landmark court cases during the Victorian era highlighted the internal tensions within the Church and its struggle with secular authority over religious matters. This article will review major cases such as the Gorham Judgment and the Lincoln Judgment, discussing their impact on the Church's doctrinal integrity and its relationship with the state.

Each article in this series will provide a deeper understanding of these facets, illustrating how the Church of England navigated the complexities of an era that straddled tradition and modernity. This introduction sets the stage for exploring these themes in greater detail, revealing the Church's role in shaping and responding to the changing dynamics of Victorian society.

William Holden

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICES

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

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

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

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

10.00 am Online service via Youtube



The Rector is always available for spiritual counsel and healing prayer

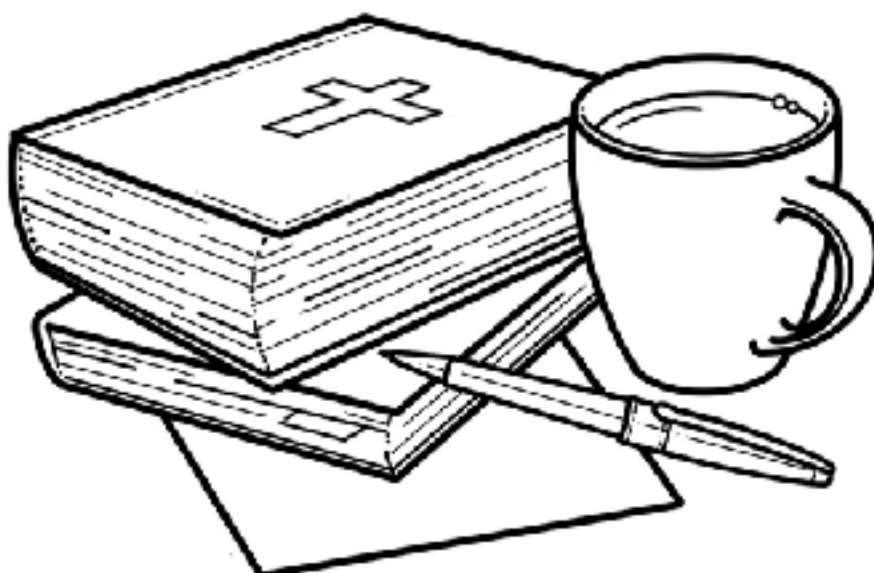
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**FRIDAYS AT ST PETER'S
St Peter's 'Open Church' drop-in**

**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.





WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR GARDEN?

- 1) Check plants daily and water them if the soil is dry, especially those newly planted.
- 2) Keep on top of weeding.
- 3) Continue to thin out drifts of hardy annual plants if they are overcrowded.
- 4) Lift and divide clumps of Snowdrops and Bluebells once the leaves start to yellow.
- 5) Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of flower bulbs and tubers.
- 6) Pinch out the tips of Fuschias to encourage a bushy habit and more flowers.
- 7) Start to pick Sweet Peas as soon as they flower to encourage more blooms.
- 8) Dead head your Roses if they are repeat flowering ones.
- 9) Stake tall perennial plants to prevent wind damage.
- 10) As new shoots grow use soft ties to train climbing plants such as Honeysuckle and Clematis.
- 11) Towards the end of June, if your hardy Geraniums have finished flowering, cut them back to encourage new foliage and flowers.
- 12) If there has not been much rain, raise your lawn mower blades to reduce stress on grass.

13) Keep new lawns well watered.

14) Use water butts as much as possible and water your patio perennials and baskets well in hot weather. Start to feed them with a balanced liquid fertiliser every 2 to 4 weeks.

Greenfingers



*...well you cannot fault the efficacy of
the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...*



COME INTO MY KITCHEN.....

Now that the warmer weather has finally arrived, no one wants to spend too long in the kitchen.

This first recipe is good for a quick mid week supper.

CHEESE BROCCOLI PASTA BAKE

SERVES 4-6

50g butter
50g plain flour
700ml whole milk
1 garlic clove, crushed
1tsp Dijon mustard
pinch chilli flakes (optional)
250g cheese (cheddar, emmental, gruyere or a mixture) grated
300g broccoli, cut into small florets
250g pasta (macaroni, penne)

Melt the butter in a pan then stir in the flour. Cook, stirring, for 3 minutes then gradually whisk in the milk until it forms a smooth sauce. Stir in the garlic, mustard, chilli (if using) and 225g of the cheese, and stir until melted. Season well with salt and pepper.

Heat the oven to 220C/200C fan/gas 7. Cook the broccoli in a large pan of boiling salted water for 3 minutes. Scoop out with a slotted spoon and drain really well. Cook the pasta in the same water until just tender. Drain then rinse under cold water and drain again really well. Carefully mix the pasta and broccoli with the sauce and tip into a 20cm x 30cm ovenproof dish.

Scatter over the remaining cheese and bake for 20-25 minutes or until golden and bubbling. Leave to sit for 5mins before serving with a green salad.

And now something to enjoy with coffee or tea in the garden or on the balcony!

LEMON CURD, YOGURT AND ALMOND CAKE

SERVES 10

200g unsalted butter, softened
200g caster sugar
4 eggs
175g self-raising flour
50g ground almonds
100g natural yogurt
100g lemon curd
15g whole almonds, finely sliced or flaked almonds
icing sugar, for dusting
creme fraiche, to serve

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line the base of a 23cm cake tin with baking paper. Beat together the butter and caster sugar until pale and fluffy, then add the eggs, one at a time.

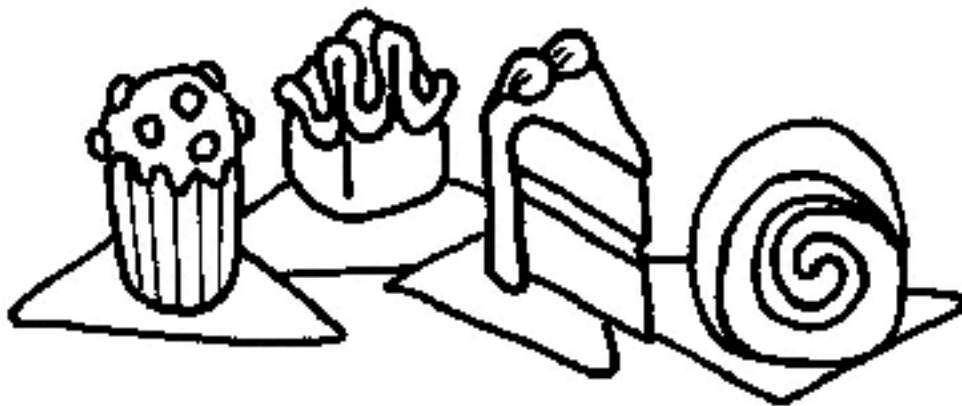
Fold in the flour, ground almonds, yogurt and half the lemon curd until you have a thick, creamy batter. Spoon the batter into the tin, then dot over the remaining lemon curd and gently swirl in using a skewer or the tip of a cutlery knife.

Scatter over the almonds and bake for 45-50 minutes or until golden and risen, and the cake springs back when gently pressed.

Leave to cool in the tin for 15mins, then transfer to a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

Dust with icing sugar, then serve with spoonfuls of crème fraiche.

Maggie





*The Parish Church of St. Peter
West Blatchington*

FREE LUNCHTIME CONCERT SERIES

Our afternoon concert series continues with

**Margaret Watson - Harp
1.10 p.m. on Friday 21st June**

**Rebelles - A ladies singing group
1.10 p.m. on Saturday 29th June**

The Recitals are for approximately 40 minutes

Refreshments provided.

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

All welcome!

JUNE FESTIVALS AND SAINTS.

11th June – Barnabas

Barnabas, a key figure in the early Christian church, is celebrated for his role as a missionary, his partnership with Paul, and his influential connections with figures like John Mark. Known as the "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36), Barnabas was instrumental in the spread of Christianity beyond the Jewish communities into the Gentile world. His feast day, celebrated on June 11th, honours his contributions to the Christian faith and his martyrdom.

Barnabas was a Jew, originally named Joseph, from the tribe of Levi, who hailed from Cyprus. He sold a field he owned and gave the money to the apostles, a testament to his generosity and commitment to the Christian community in Jerusalem (Acts 4:36-37). His Cypriot heritage is significant as it highlights his early exposure to Hellenistic culture, equipping him with the skills that would prove vital in his missionary activities.

Barnabas is perhaps best known for his relationship with Paul. After Paul's dramatic conversion on the road to Damascus, it was Barnabas who introduced him to the other apostles in Jerusalem, vouching for the authenticity of Paul's conversion (Acts 9:27). This act of support was crucial in gaining the early Church's acceptance of Paul as a fellow believer. Later, the church at Antioch commissioned Barnabas and Paul for what would become known as Paul's first missionary journey, marking a significant moment in Christian history as they travelled together preaching the Gospel (Acts 13:2-3).

Their partnership, however, was not without its challenges. After their successful journey, a sharp disagreement arose between them over John Mark, who had deserted them mid-mission. Barnabas wanted to give John Mark a second chance, but Paul disagreed, leading to their separation. Barnabas took John Mark and returned to Cyprus, continuing his work of teaching and preaching (Acts 15:36-41).

Barnabas's relationship with John Mark, often believed to be his cousin (Colossians 4:10), is a testament to his character. His willingness to forgive and restore John Mark not only highlights his nurturing nature but also his understanding of growth and redemption in the Christian life.

John Mark later matures in faith and ministry, becoming valuable to Paul and the early church, an outcome likely influenced by Barnabas's mentorship.

Returning to Cyprus was a natural choice for Barnabas, given his roots and familiarity with the area. His mission in Cyprus is crucial as it represents one of the early examples of church planting by native believers in their homeland. His efforts helped establish the Christian church in Cyprus, where he is revered as the founder of the Cypriot Orthodox Church. Tradition holds that Barnabas was martyred in Cyprus around AD 61, and his legacy is deeply embedded in the island's Christian heritage.

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 Selsey. 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.

Compiled by William Holden from various sources.

**May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be pleasing to your site, O Lord, my Rock and my
Redeemer.**

– Psalm 19:14

MONEY MATTERS - Figures for April 2024

Receipts

Planned Giving	£ 3,501
Community Centre Income	£ 1,517
Payaz Donation Station/Sundry Donations	£ 993
Collections/Other giving	£ 95
Keynotes subs/adverts	£ 10
Income Tax Recovered	£ 1,390
Fundraising	£ 143
TOTAL RECEIPTS	£ 7,649

Payments

Parish Contribution	£ 6,651
Salaries	£ 788
Utilities and Insurance	£ 310
Rectory	£ 344
Community Centre running costs	£ 379
SumUp/Bank Charges	£ 14
Funds sent to charity	£ 92
Church Maintenance	£ 51
Reimbursement of expenses	£ 115
TOTAL PAYMENTS	£ 8,744

Year to date deficit : £3,652



Date	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for June (Year B)
SAT 1ST	All people suffering persecution
SUN 2ND	First Sunday after Trinity 1 Samuel 3. 1-10 2 Corinthians 4. 5-12 Mark 2. 23-3.6
MON 3RD	All teachers
TUES 4TH	All youth workers
WEDS 5TH	All teaching support staff
THURS 6TH	Doctors, Nurses and Health care professionals
FRI 7TH	Peace in the Holy Land
SAT 8TH	All Church musicians
SUN 9TH	Second Sunday after Trinity 1 Samuel 8. 4-11 2 Corinthians 4. 13-5.1 Mark 3. 20-end
MON 10TH	Our Choir
TUES 11TH	All Clergy
WEDS 12TH	Our Suffragan Bishops, Ruth and Will
THURS 13TH	Brighton & Hove City Council
FRI 14TH	Local Businesses
SAT 15TH	Our prayer life

	Reading, Commemorations & Intentions Calendar for June (Year B)
SUN 16TH	Third Sunday after Trinity 1 Samuel 15. 34-16. 13 2 Corinthians 5. 6-10, 14-17 Mark 4. 26-34
MON 17TH	Our Foodbank
TUES 18TH	All food manufacturers
WEDS 19TH	Social Justice
THURS 20TH	All involved in the distribution of food
FRI 21ST	All Farmers
SAT 22ND	The Bishop's Council
SUN 23RD	Fourth Sunday after Trinity 1 Samuel 17. 32-49 2 Corinthians 6. 1-13 Mark 4. 35-end
MON 24TH	Courage to proclaim the Gospel
TUES 25TH	All hospital chaplains
WEDS 26TH	Hove Deanery
THURS 27TH	Bishop Martin
FRI 28TH	Peace in the Holy Land and the Middle East
SAT 29TH	Spread of the Gospel
SUN 30TH	Fifth Sunday after Trinity 2 Samuel 1.1. 17-end 2 Corinthians 8. 7-end Mark 5. 21-end

WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEAVE A FINAL GIFT TO THE CHURCH WHEN YOU DIE?

We all know how reliant the Church is on the money that it receives from its members in order to function well, with paid clergy, a well-run and comfortable building in which to worship, together with the vital support that we receive from the Diocese. Yes, the Church of England does have investments and endowments which all contribute to the running cost but the income that those funds produce alone is nowhere near enough to cover everything. So while we can, we all give what we can afford by way of regular contribution. But once we have died, that source of regular income is lost. Wouldn't it be nice if we could make a generous parting gift from the money that we leave when we die? Moreover, any money that we leave to the Church (or any charity, for that matter) will attract relief from inheritance tax.

If you would like to leave a gift to the Church when you die then please consider making a change to your will, as you can only leave money on your death to a charity, like the Church, by making a will.

Depending on how much you wish to give, you could do this by leaving a fixed sum of money or a share of your estate. If you have already made your will and in all other respects it continues to reflect your wishes, you can amend it to make a gift to the Church by way of a codicil. A codicil is a supplement to your will and both documents will be read together when the time comes. An example of a simple codicil merely adding to the other gifts in your will the gift of a fixed sum of money to the Church is set out below. You could copy this out, filling in the blanks, and provided you then sign it in the presence of two witnesses, being adults who are not themselves people who stand to benefit under your will, and keep it with your will, that would be sufficient.

If you wanted to do something more complicated, such as leaving the Church a percentage share of your estate, or make other changes to your will, or even make a will for the first time, you ought to enlist the assistance of a suitably qualified expert, such as a solicitor. There will be a cost but when you consider the value of what is at stake you may consider it worthwhile to avoid the risk of any mistakes in the drafting and signing process.

Please have a word with Jonathan Cooke if you would like to talk about this.

EXAMPLE OF CODICIL

I (*your full names*) of (*your address*) declare this to be a codicil to my last will dated (*date of your will*)

1. In addition to the gifts stated in my said will I give (free of tax) the sum of £(*amount of your gift*) to the Parochial Church Council of St Peter's Church West Blatchington Hove for the general purposes of the said Church
2. The receipt of the treasurer for the time being of the said Parochial Church Council shall be an effective discharge to my executors
3. In all other respects I confirm my said will

In witness whereof I have set my hand the day of
2024

Signed by the said
(*your full names*)
in our joint presence
and then by us in his/hers

Witness 1 **Witness 2**
Signature Signature

Full names Full names

Address Address

.....

.....

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And finally.....

Prayer for June 2024

Dear Lord,

Here we are in June. Halfway through this year already! How the years fly by and often we are so busy, so taken up with everyday concerns that we forget to take time to be still; to consciously be in your presence; to be aware of the wonders of your world.

June is such a beautiful month, so we take this moment, Lord – and we thank you for your goodness to us and your provision for us. Especially we thank you for the gift of Jesus who is the only way to you, who is your truth and who offers us eternal life, if we will turn away from our self- centredness and put our trust in Him.

For June and for Jesus, Lord, we praise you and we glorify you. And we move into the rest of the year in hope and trust.

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



