



# CROSS KEYS



**Easter 2021**

**God's choice - 'The place that the Lord your God will choose'**



'The place that the Lord your God will choose'. An essay I once wrote and had forgotten all about recently came back into my mind. Isn't it funny how your memory does this - recalls things that had fallen to the bottom of the mental filing cabinet. Thankfully, on this occasion it was more than an old advert jingle, it was something quite useful.

It was an essay I had written which examined the covenant and code in the Book of Deuteronomy. Those of you familiar with the Old Testament will know that the Deuteronomistic Code (chapters 12-26) was a guiding text for the settling of a community in a new land. The Deuteronomistic Covenant was all about the land, the place where Israel would be formed and stabilised at the will of God. It is no understatement to say that this text plays a key role in the tensions we see between Israel and Palestine and we had been set an essay question about the place of land in the covenant.

As a literary critic in scripture, I always look for tropes or motifs, especially those that are repeated. The literary school takes such repetitions as important and emphasising an important point, and throughout the text of Deuteronomy I found this repeated phrase 'the place that the Lord your God will choose'. I noticed that 'the place' actually had an ambiguity about it and the role of 'choose' in this sentence suggested something fluid rather than fixed ... a choice can always be made and remade, and the choice is God's and God's alone. I argued for my essay that this motif meant that the Eucharist being established as the 'place' of the New Covenant was entirely in line with the Deuteronomistic covenant as it was a place of presence, and that place had always remained in God's gift to choose. It is intriguing then that over this past year we have repeatedly found ourselves receiving (or not receiving) the Eucharist in unprecedented ways.

There has been much complaint in the churchy press, much bitter blaming of church powers, and some clergy have received great angst about the choices that they have been deemed to make. The choice to obey rules or the choice not to open the minute it was legally (even if not safely) possible to do so.

'The place that the Lord your God will choose' came to mind at many times over this past year. As I checked upon an unattended and empty church during the first lockdown, I was reminded of exilic theology, of how God often changes the plan, moves the norms, upsets and resets the covenant. I had a sense that we were meant to not be in the building for a time and though this was hard and disappointing, it was ultimately God's choice, to move the place of the covenant. There was perhaps also something reassuring in thinking that God was still concerned enough with us to exercise His will and His choice in our contemporary lives.

Two lockdowns further on and we still don't quite have things back in place. We haven't quite yet made the return and I wonder what it is we will return to.

In the Lent course we have explored Online Communion and how the Gospel has been taken into brand new areas as a result. This move has undoubtedly been a sacrifice to many of the regulars, but it has been a blessing in taking the Gospel to re-find lost sheep and introduce the faith to new ones. Even for those who have been Sunday churchgoers for years, found that witnessing the Eucharist or saying prayers in their homes has brought their faith into new dimensions.

As we prepare to return to the church and enter a period (we hope) where lockdown's become a thing of the past, it is well worth us examining our consciences to prepare our hearts to be met by The Lord our God again. Remembering that it is only by His choice, His gift and His grace that we are able to be there. What have we missed? Why does this matter so much? What a gift it is to be brought into this extraordinary place of union with God. How wonderful to have been called into 'The place that the Lord your God will choose'.

God bless you all,

**Rev'd Arwen Folkes**



*Rector of St Peter's, East Blatchington & St Andrew's, Bishopstone*

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## Rector's notices

### **New responsibilities**

I have been appointed as Assistant Rural Dean by Bishop Martin, to serve alongside Rev'd James Hollingsworth as the Rural Dean for Lewes and Seaford Deanery. I have also been asked to support the Bishops as part of the Liturgical Chaplaincy team. Both roles will sit well alongside parish ministry as they will only take me away sporadically.

### **Benefice Walking Group**

A brand new walking group is going to begin for the Benefice in May - as soon as we are able to walk in groups. The group will begin with exploring some local routes - taking in local churches and sights. We hope to build up to walking pilgrimages in the year - exploring churches elsewhere in Sussex. This will be a great way of being healthy in the outdoors and getting to know one another in fellowship. Please do look out for more details nearer the time.



## Holy Week

**Please find here all the YouTube web links for online services during Holy Week**

10.30am Palm Sunday Eucharist (28th March) <https://youtu.be/EmX6ePb68bM>

7pm Maundy Thursday (1st April) <https://youtu.be/toZ-4uxa3UY>

3pm Good Friday (2nd April) <https://youtu.be/js5OTlsgEFQ>

7.30pm Paschal Vigil on Holy Saturday (3rd April) <https://youtu.be/5bCqlIXQbXE>

6.15am Sunrise Eucharist for Easter (4th April) [https://youtu.be/4uKgWZ2L\\_OA](https://youtu.be/4uKgWZ2L_OA)

**Please note that all these services can also be accessed on the parish Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/StPetersEB](http://www.facebook.com/StPetersEB)**

## Paschal candles

### Paschal Candles for at Home

Recognising how very difficult it is to be at home for another Easter,



Daphne, Linda and Arwen have used past Paschal Candles and created little paschal candles for the home for the coming year.

These will be available in the church for collection during Holy Week (when the church re-opens for private prayer every day).

Please do come and collect one for your home or contact us if you would like one to be delivered to you.

These can be lit during the Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday services.

## Daily Prayers

The daily praying community on Facebook has really established itself now and will continue to virtually gather at 9.30am and 7pm each day.

We will seek to integrate Morning Prayer with a presence in the church as soon as we can.

If you would like to be a part of this, The Rector still has some purple books available for £12 each.



# Editorial



Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles, stories, poems, notices and photos to this edition of Cross Keys, which I hope you will find in turn, interesting, informative, enjoyable, inspiring, full of hope and thought provoking.

How good it is to hear about reopening the church for private prayer next week and for public worship later in April. And how wonderful it will be to meet up with family and friends again after this long, wearisome period of lockdown. I wish you all a very Blessed and Happy Easter.

The next edition will hopefully be published in early June so please send in your contributions by May 25th or earlier, if possible.

Send them, preferably by email as a Word document attachment or as a jpeg, if a photo, to

**christinecooke.xks@gmail.com**

Please take care and stay safe.

**Christine**



## Easter Anagrams

ACE Chair, Sally Churchus, offers these anagrams for Easter:

- |                     |              |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Airy odd fog     | -----/-----  |
| 2. Rags see get     | -----/-----  |
| 3. Layman spud      | -----/-----  |
| 4. Coin uric fix    | -----        |
| 5. Brunch so toss   | -----/-----  |
| 6. Apples rust      | -----/-----  |
| 7. Acid air just so | -----/-----  |
| 8. Torch frowns on  | -----/-----  |
| 9. Hen irises       | -----/-----! |



**Answers:** 1. Good Friday; 2. Easter Eggs; 3. Palm Sunday; 4. Crucifixion; 5. Hot Cross Buns; 6. Last Supper; 7. Judas Iscariot; 8. Crown of Thorns; 9. He is Risen!

From ACE Ideas Forum



## "Let's Get Growing!"



The St Peter's Plant Sale 2021 is still happening.  
Please note the new date: Saturday 22nd May  
Wanted: Lots of plants!!

With all the challenges of the recent year we are hopeful that we will be able to have a plant sale outside as we have before.

If you 'grow your own' please could you grow extra for the sale. We always need a lot of plants from flowers to fruit and veg. Perennials are most welcome as well as house plants.

If you don't grow your own but have a garden please remember the sale when digging up unwanted plants, they can be potted up and rehomed.

Clean garden tools would also be welcome, collections can be made nearer the time.

Any queries please contact Margaret or Nick Linsell 896314.

More information will follow.



# Shining white



There's nothing like celebrating Easter at a political and cultural monument, is there? You question me? Why, I am talking about one of the most famous, most photographed places in the world, the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Paris. You may know it more familiarly as Sacré-Coeur. But more formally it is known as such a monument.

If you are fortunate enough to find yourself in Paris on a special holiday weekend, and I'm obviously going back to the Dark Ages when we were allowed to travel anywhere, then there is no better place to go on an Easter Sunday.

Sacré-Coeur is a Roman Catholic church at the summit of Montmartre, the highest point in the city. It is a popular landmark with its enduring white stone shining all over the city, and the second-most visited monument in Paris.

It takes a bit of effort to get up there in the first place, but the reward once you do get your breath back is rewarding. The church is packed, and before the service starts one of the nuns gathered either side of the altar gently rehearses the congregation in some of the hymns to be used. Singing, of course, is optional; you don't have to join in, she continues her encouragement anyway.

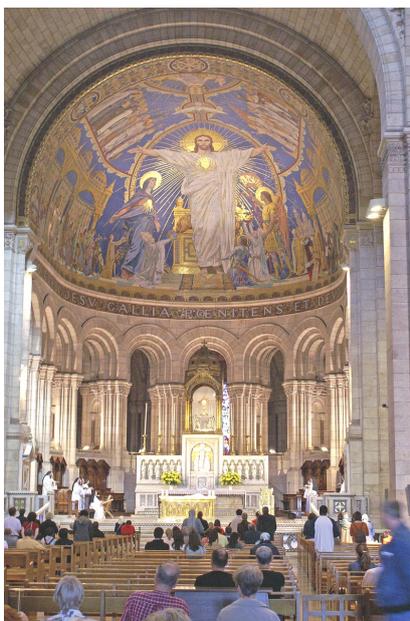
The service is in French of course, taxing for anyone whose knowledge of the language expired after leaving school, but the sounds of the accents more than make up for your lack of comprehension. And there is always a small part offered in English.

It is a special occasion, suitable for a special day, and in a glorious setting.

Concentrate on the service and you soon forget the parade of sight-seers traipsing round the outside of the pews in what seems to be an endless but mercifully fairly quiet and respectful queue.

At the end as you leave you emerge, assuming the weather gods are benevolent, into the bright light of the late morning, to find the steep steps now crowded with tourists of every age and colour from all over the world.

If, as is our preference, you make your way in the other direction you will find the famous Place du Tertre where the artists gather and paint and draw, while and others stand and watch and sometimes buy. By the way, on the way here, almost in the shadow of Sacré-Coeur, you pass the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St Pierre de Montmartre, on a site where a Roman Temple of Mercury once stood. Our St Peter's may match that in age, but I suspect it can't quite claim the same Roman ancestry.



A bit of history you may well know already, but that doesn't stop me from repeating it, is that after the Franco-Prussian war in 1871 there were artillery batteries still positioned on top of the Butte Montmartre, on waste ground, and the National Assembly decided to build a church on the site. It required a basilica, in Romano-Byzantine style.

Deep foundations were necessary to hold the enormous structure and it is said that if the hill blew away, the church would still be there. Work began in 1875 and was completed in 1914 and it is considered as both a political and cultural monument, representing a national penance for the defeat of France in 1870 and for the actions of the socialist Paris Commune of 1871. What a splendid way to pay penance.

Of course, the church is very high. You can get there by funicular or climbing the 100 metres of monumental steps. The climb to the top may be a little exhausting but the effort is well worth it, because from the top you can look out over the whole of Paris and beyond - though of course if it's raining, that view is rather diminished.

But of course in memory the sun is always shining.

**Roger Bing**



# The miraculous draft of fishes



Tapestry with silk and gold threads, 'The Miraculous Draft of Fishes' after Raphael, woven by the workshop of Pieter van Aelst (1450 -1536) 490ms x 441cms Vatican Museum.

This miracle is found only in the gospels of St. Luke and St. John. In the gospel of Luke the story is told as part of the call of Peter, James and John. Andrew is not mentioned, but he is there in the tapestry and cartoon. In the gospel of John, this appearance of Jesus to the disciples comes after the resurrection, and in the tapestry we see quite clearly the devotion and love demonstrated by Peter and the amazement of Andrew. Jeffrey John in his book 'The Meaning of the Miracles', suggests that this miracle has symbolic meaning, implying that the net stands for the Church, holding such a diversity of people in unity. The fish in the cartoon can now be clearly identified since the cartoons have been restored and cleaned.

There are 153 fish, sea eels, barbels ,(sometimes called St. Peter fish), sardines, a skate or a shark, sea bream and shell fish! The number is apparently significant, but too complex for me to understand. But what is the underlying meaning today? For me what is so very moving is the unity and diversity the image implies, together with the devotion of Peter and the love and blessing of Jesus.



'The Miraculous Draught of Fishes', cartoon for tapestry, Body Colour over charcoal, many sheets of paper, mounted on canvas 360cms x 400 cms, Raphael, The Royal Collection, The Victoria and Albert Museum.



Image detail of St Peter from the cartoon

The 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the painter Raphael's death was to be marked at this time, but, because of COVID has been pushed back to 2022. These amazing cartoons will be displayed when the V and A is open again, with improved lighting, so it will be truly stunning. If you like, I might put together a lecture, including an explanation why the tapestry image is the reverse of the cartoon and then, who knows, an outing to see them!

Kay Blackburn



# Lewes 1983 - a true story

I came home on a rush hour train, and as I got off at Lewes, my friend Ian Littlewood, a fellow lecturer in English at the University of Sussex suggested I had a drink with him later that evening. As I had to comment on a PhD thesis, I phoned Ian and warned him it would be late if I came. At 11pm I walked down the High Street to Ian's cottage in Broomans Lane. He gave me a scotch and we talked about his time in Morocco and mine in Wales. Also about Alan Sinfield's book on Protestant England and my TLS review of the Arthurian poems of Charles Williams. I left about 1am and that was soon confirmed by the clock on the town tower as I went up the hill on this bitter February morning. Lewes is very interesting at that time of night – extremely lonely, with the slightly metallic, shadowy light of the street lamps.



Lewes High Street at night

When I was in Market Lane I heard a noise in front that I put down to cats, but as I went along Mount Pleasant, I heard a noise that I thought was the same sound I had heard before. The noise was a wailing and I now realised it was a child. Was it teething and which window did the sound come from? I even turned into Abinger Place to find out which window. It didn't come from a window or a house but from a telephone box with a broken pane. I opened the heavy red painted glass door, and on the floor in the corner was a light brown carrier bag with string handles. There was wrapping cloth in it, and out of it kicked a small naked foot.

The next thing I remember was whisking through the door of the police station 50 yards back and pressing the button by the window for the officer on duty. He didn't appear to believe me, but took my name address and telephone number. I went quickly back to the kiosk, and there was a police car already there. A young policeman was saying there is a child in here. How could anyone do such a thing? They were soon in the car and away.

The police phoned me at the university the next morning and said the child was a girl and doing well. They had taken her to Lewes Cottage Hospital, and then the Royal Sussex to be put in an incubator. Could they use my name because they wanted as much publicity as possible in the hope of the mother changing her mind. The child had been named Hannah Abigail by the nurses. I was photographed with her under the title 'Tiny Hannah's learned friend'. All pre-natal clinics in the South East of England had been asked to check their records. 'Perhaps God guides the world, not as a man makes a picture, nor as a man devises a machine, but as a man gentles a horse, and in the finding of this child, one felt a gentling.' A fortnight later I learnt she was with foster parents.



Lewes Market Tower

Many years later I was sitting reading over my dinner in Giorgios Italian Restaurant in the Cliffe, when a genial rubicund man came across to my table and asked 'Isn't your name Stephen Medcalf?' 'Yes', I said, rather puzzled. 'Didn't you find an abandoned baby in a telephone kiosk?' 'Yes, I did', I said. 'Well, here she is.' And there she was, a dark haired pleasant looking girl, named by her adoptive parents Emma. 'She is now at Oxford, studying for a job in the hospital line, which adds for me the gladness of having found her in 1983.

*(Stephen Medcalf had been one of the most outstanding students at Merton College, Oxford.)*

**John Creasey**

NB. Taken from the Guardian account.



## Kenyan Kids incorporating Familia Girls - newsletter from Julie Hellon, founder and executive director of this charity and a member of our online congregation

I still have to pinch myself that we have come this far! Even so, it's taken a lot of hard work and dedication, commitment and faith and that's not just us on the ground, but the loyalty of our donors and supporters too!

*Last year Julie's charity found itself in the position of having sufficient funds to buy a piece of land to start a farm and build a refuge to replace the flat in Kisumu that housed girls in desperate need, danger and suffering exploitation. Her report says -*



So, what are some of the things I've learned over the last few months?

- *Never trust a Kenyan workman to place a toilet roll holder in the correct place.*
- *Septic tanks built in black cotton soil fill up very quickly.*
- *Electricity/water cuts out when you are in the shower fully soaped up.*
- *Electricians have bare wires on their equipment.*
- *Scaffolding does not exist, ladders neither.*
- *Nails are sold by the kilo, wood and bricks are sold in feet.*
- *A 3" nail banged into a wall will hold most things.*
- *The phrase 'measure twice, cut once' does not exist in the Swahili language.*
- *Only the builder owns a tape measure and even then, frequently mixes up his centimetres and inches.*
- *Spirit levels are a luxury item.*

We actually considered the 1st November as being our official moving in date but even then, we still didn't have electricity and the tiling and painting was still to be completed. This, very much, influenced my decision to stay on for Christmas as it's always magical when you are surrounded by children!

We couldn't find a real tree so this year, we invested in an artificial one. Guro sent us some twinkling lights and each day of Advent, we added our own home made decorations. The girls were thrilled with it.

However, as Christmas approached, I began to worry about presents for the girls and how much money was available to spend on them. Then, a few weeks before Christmas, a friend in Nairobi sent the girls an outdoor trampoline which her daughter had outgrown. How wonderful was that! The girls began doing their chores in record time in order to use it.

Accompanying the trampoline was a huge box filled with all sorts of stuff that girls love - all sorts of sparkly jewellery, games, tiaras! In the event, all we needed to add to their Christmas stockings, was some scented body lotions.

On Christmas Eve, we began to prepare some Hope Hampers to distribute to our elderly neighbours. It's always a highlight for the girls to be able to give something back but at the same time very sad, as what we saw were so many of the elderly who are neglected and uncared for. This old lady was deaf so the girls had a hard time explaining who they were. She had no idea it was Christmas but she gratefully accepted our gifts of maize flour, cooking oil, tea and sugar, milk and bar soap. When we realised she had no light, we hastily went out and bought her some kerosene.



Giving and receiving huh! That same day, we were surprised by a visit from Mercy's father. He's no longer 'working' (collecting plastics) on the rubbish dumping site but was now legitimately employed by a small NGO in Kisumu. Good news indeed! Before I could go into the kitchen to send him home with a few bits and pieces, he reached into his bag and gave **us** some food items. What an honour to know this man, who trusts us with his daughter and fully appreciates all we do for her.

Before we knew it, the Christmas celebrations were over and we began the preparations for La Rentrée. Due to Covid, the girls had been off school since March. School shoes had to be repaired or replaced, torn school bags mended. Kiwi shoe polish was added back into the household budget. Most of the girls had outgrown last year's uniforms which was an expense we hadn't prepared for. Perhaps we are feeding them too much??

Cynthia, Phanice and Millie all joined new schools which entails entrance exams, interviews, and in some cases a little bit of 'tea' money (a bribe). I tell you - Headmistresses are to be FEARED!



Our waking up times suddenly changed. Cynthia would rise at 4:30am to finish off uncompleted homework from the night before. At 5:30 am, she would start making porridge and black tea before waking Millie. They would then depart by 6:30am and suddenly the house was quiet...

During the last four years, we've been keeping an eye on one of our other girls, Cynthia. A bright child, her slum school, as seen here, really lacks the facilities needed to spur her on. We therefore made the decision to move her to a much better school in town and now we're really looking forward to seeing how she will perform in the future.



One of the great joys living in a rural environment, is waking up to the animals on our farm. During my time in Kenya, a lamb, three goat kids and three kittens were born. With the lamb and one of the kids, it was touch and go for 24 hours whether they would survive as the mothers weren't producing milk. Thank goodness for Mr Google, who advised us, in the absence of a vet, to feed them goats' milk (from another mother) from a teaspoon.

Oh yes, I was mucky and muddy as I held those tiny babies tight to my 'bosom' but we managed to open their tiny mouths and drip milk in to them. At lot of gurgling! They survived and are now leaping about, healthy and happy.



What else did I learn on the farm?? Our two cows, Brunetta and Pinky, recognise and remember you. They get jealous about attention and LOVE being scratched on their necks. They smell good too. If anything was going to make me vegetarian ...

I sampled duck eggs, for the first time, which are quite delicious; I learnt that drinking harvested rainwater doesn't kill you and nothing tastes better than the stuff you've grown yourself.

Of course, the downside to Kenya is malaria; however, the mosquito season comes and it goes. I learnt that they love to hang out on damp bath towels and that buying any form of repellent is very expensive. I was therefore very selective when it came to sitting outside to watch the sunset unless I was covered, head to foot, in a very large Massai blanket!

I am going to finish this newsletter here in spite of the fact that there is so much more still to tell. I hope I've given you a taster of the last five months. The important thing is that it's **not** my experiences that are important but the connections that we make and the lives we are able (collectively) to change.

Finally, I hope to share with you our plans for the future - our dream of building another nursery school thus becoming more integrated within our new community.



As ever, if you want to be part of this amazing journey and want, like us, to have some small part in effecting BIG change in young lives, then please, I would love to hear from you. Thank you so much for your continued support and loyalty.

**Julie Hellon**

*You can donate and read more about the charity and its history at: <https://www.Kenyankids.org>*

## Mothers' Union

Here is an update from Karen Hall, Chichester MU Diocesan President:- A year ago I took on the role of Diocesan President and I had hoped to have a huge act of worship and a bit of a party at our AGM on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May; this sadly with the pandemic will have to wait. We will start with worship, and have our AGM but on Zoom. Anita will be sending out all the information in April by post.

We have wonderful news: the Eastbourne Family Contact Centre opened this Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March, and the number of parents asking to have access has risen. I can't thank the volunteers enough for agreeing to opening. Our partnership with Family Support Work on this project is going from strength to strength. At the bottom of my last E-letter, I wrote about our 'Away From It All' Appeal and asked you to gently nudge your PCCs. The response has been wonderful and we have now got enough money to refurbish the Winchelsea Caravan so we can open to families after 12<sup>th</sup> April, regulations allowing. In truth the refurbishment went ahead in faith and a lot of prayer, it seemed too important not to! All of the school holidays are booked up for both caravans with families from all over Sussex. We still have to raise the money for the new caravan needed for Selsey; but we have time, which we didn't with the refurbishment.

So as we start to open up in small groups, and start to worship together in real life, let us remember those who have died and thank God for their lives. Take one last look back, take what we have learnt and then turn to the future for we are needed in our communities, now more than ever. We are after all a Union of women and men, who pray with our feet moving.

Wishing you all a Happy, Healthy and Blessed Easter. **Karen Hall**

Let's hope it will be possible to get together again for a branch meeting on the 2nd Tuesday in July.

**Marilyn Hayden**



## Walk humbly

It is said that when Arctic explorers get to the final leg of their expedition all sorts of frustrations begin to emerge. Suddenly, as the end comes in sight the

mind imagines the return to normal life, the people, familiarity, society and home. It is a scratchy time, the usually resilient and level-headed explorers accustomed to the solitariness, get very grumpy with one another, finding the trek harder than ever, and initial positivity and practicality can be lost.

As explorers of this historic chapter, do we dare to hope that we find ourselves now in our own final 'leg'? We see the rates have plummeted with grateful thanks to keeping the third lockdown and a well administered vaccination programme. Many vaccinated church members are beginning to imagine the liberation and familiarity this will soon give, and like the Arctic explorers, may feel increasingly frustrated that we can't now just 'get on with things'.

But not *all* church members have yet received the vaccination. I am also hearing how understandably cautious and fearful some are. The church guidance still insists that we have all the social distancing and cleaning measures in place and we are being cautioned that these will stay in place for some time yet. I am struck how one person's frustration is another person's reassurance, but it is universal to all that any hopes we had, this time last year, of it all being over by now, are dashed.

Many of you know I recently took some time to pray and process all I've witnessed and done this past year. As I listened to my responses, I was struck by how differently I feel, at this last leg, depending on whose standpoint I look at all this from. When I only look from my own viewpoint - the vaccinated priest who just wants everything to be normal now - then I risk starting to dismiss things that are

'in the way' as being no longer important, or wilfully ignore things so I can just get on with what *I* want to do. I am aware that me, myself, and I, have had quite enough of exploring the territory of pandemic.

But when I stand in the position of those on the margins, those who are still fearful - those who haven't been vaccinated yet, those who are remain particularly vulnerable, or those who are traumatised by the whole experience, well, then the whole perspective shifts again.

While I was away, I prayed for guidance and strength for 'what next', and I was met with and reminded of these words from Micah;

*'He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?' Micah 6.8*

These are prophetic words for our current time. The need to be kind, to tip-toe carefully and humbly into the new normal, to be just towards those who are still on the edges, strengthens the need to keep these guidelines a while longer. Suddenly they become the Christian imperative, they become acts of loving one's neighbour, and putting our own wants in their proper place.

But it is also in our personal favour too. A gentle return offers the space to integrate (rather than suppress) our experience. To really prepare to gracefully receive the sacrament again, to prepare to re-enter this awesome house of prayer, and to develop a newly humble gratitude for things previously taken for granted.

As the 'expedition leader' then, of this historic chapter here in East Blatchington, I want to say this; we are so nearly there, this is looking very likely to be the last leg, as long as we don't make a wrong turn. To avoid doing that, please let these words from Micah guide us:

Let us humbly walk back into the life we knew. Through kindness let us be sure that everyone is, and feels, safe. And through justice toward one another, let us make sure we emerge from this together and in one piece.

Arwen



## Anyone for netball?

**CORNWALL**

During this rather boring lockdown I started to fret about the fitness of the over 75s. I no longer have an early morning swim or climb Seaford Head. So, with the agreement of our leader a netball team was formed. There are at least 7 players and 20 helpers.

Arwen said she would mark out the pitch in the church carpark with her special chalk. Houses near the netball ground will be asked to allow stands for our fans to be constructed in their gardens.

I feel we should have a first match away in Cornwall and after we have won we could have real pasties and dinner by the sea. Arwen and Daphne will drive the coach. Laura from Scotland will be steward and provide snacks. The choice of champagne has not been agreed on. We will stay in Cornwall for two nights for a rest. WE WILL NEED IT. Arwen we will hide; Cornwall might want her back.

Goods needed include a netball and hoops. We cannot yet decide on uniform. We might need walking sticks (useful for tripping up opponents), walkers, trollies and wheelchairs pushed by a willing husband or boyfriend. We shall certainly need brandy and oxygen.

We will stay for a couple of days and recover. Bert James is manager, Anne Bing is coach, Pat and Linda will wave their pompoms and Sylvia is awarding us the prize. We will of course win. We will give the opposing team plenty of wine and hold back ourselves; I have actually done this once. We have to hold back in fact as the vision gets blurred.

Please join us in the virtual fun. It makes us smile.

**Shirley Linsell**



I understand that the name of the team is still undecided although there have been several suggestions (some of them unprintable)! - St Peter's Angels; St Peter's Belles; St Peter's Hens have been considered. My particular favourite is St Peter's Old Birds! **Ed.**

# A Thank you gift for Nick Linsell

As Nick is hanging up his church warden responsibilities next month, I would like to arrange a thank you gift for him in appreciation of his ten years service as Church Warden. For those who would like to contribute to this gift, this is how you can do it.



With online banking the details are, the account name which is EAST BLATCHINGTON PCC, Account No: 87169403 Sort Code No : 09 01 51 ref Nick.

For those who wish to contribute by cash or cheque please post or deliver it to Arwen at the Rectory. Cheques should be made payable to East Blatchington PCC.

Because of the Covid restrictions, I cannot leave a Thank You Card out for those of you who would like to sign it . However, a Thank You Card is being made and if you would like to send a message to Nick please either send or email the message to Arwen at the Rectory. These messages will be placed inside the card.

The deadline for contributions and/or messages is by Saturday 10th April. I realise the timing of this is fairly tight but I would like to get this organised before the APCM meeting due on Sunday 18th April. The only way to get this message to you all is through Cross Keys. So thank you Cross Keys. If you have any questions please give me a ring on 01323 893963 and my thanks to you all.

**Juliet Mitton**

## Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2021

There will be a Parish meeting for the election of churchwardens on **18th April 2021 at 2.00pm** and this will be live-streamed; details will be on the church website.

This will be followed by the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting.**

This meeting will be for the election of parochial representatives of the laity as follows:

to the Deanery Synod up to 2 representatives.  
to the Parochial Church Council up to 3 representatives.

It will be for the appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditor.

And for the consideration of:

- changes in the electoral roll since the last annual parochial church meeting;
- a report on the proceedings of the parochial church council and the activities of the parish generally;
- the financial statements of the council for the year ending on the 31st December preceding the meeting;
- the annual report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church and chapel rooms;
- a report of the proceedings of the deanery synod;
- other matters of parochial or general Church interest.

Reports will be available to read before the meeting, both online and in the church.

Both these meetings will be followed by a meeting of the PCC, part of the business of which will be the nomination of:

- Vice-chair
  - Treasurer
  - Secretary
- and the election of any co-opted members of the PCC

Nomination forms will be available in the church or I can send you an electronic version if you prefer. If you have any questions, do please contact me.

**Geraldine Hedgecock**  
Secretary to the PCC  
[pccstpeters@gmail.com](mailto:pccstpeters@gmail.com)  
01323 872398

## CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

We are planning a **Craft Fair for Petertide**, around the 29th June (whether physical or online to be confirmed) and would welcome building up some 'wares' for sale.



Would anyone happy to help crafting saleable items please contact Arwen: 892964 or email: [rectoryebb@gmail.com](mailto:rectoryebb@gmail.com)

## St Peter's Book Sale Saturday 30th October



Wanted: **GOOD CONDITION** Books



Coming in the autumn, hopefully, is a book sale. We need books in good condition, no broken spines, bent corners or pages and no scribblings. We welcome books of all types, fiction and non-fiction, paperbacks and hardbacks. DVDs and talking books welcome but **No** magazines.

While we are 'locked in' it's a great opportunity to hunt through your book shelves and put some aside for St Peter's. Please store them until nearer the time when more information will be available.



Any queries please contact: Nick Linsell 896314.

# Unusual hymns



We tend to take for granted the hymns that we have every Sunday. In the Anglican Church there are two standard hymnals: Common Praise which is the modern version of Ancient and Modern or the English Hymnal, and in recent years Songs of Fellowship.

There are also several other hymn books that the church might consider possessing. For example, Songs of Praise, the Methodist hymn book, the Baptist hymn book, the Catholic hymn book, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone, and each would contain hymns that the congregation might admire and use.

You may well ask: how does the system work? Every thirty years or so the major hymn books are revised. Those hymns that nobody sang may be left out and new hymns replace them. To a congregation it may seem that the vicar is always incorporating new hymns but it is important that hymn singing should be a living art form that congregations sing with enthusiasm, as in the television programme "Songs of Praise".

Sometimes congregations may incorporate hymns that are a bit odd or unusual. Hymns Ancient and Modern were jokingly referred to as hymns more accurate than modern.

Songs of Praise had several unusual hymns when it was first published and was strong on the season of Remembrance and on national hymns such as "Jerusalem" and "I vow to thee my country", and this is not surprising considering that the first world war had just finished when that was published.

An amusing hymn in Songs of Praise:

*With wonderful deathless ditties  
We build up the world's great cities,  
And out of a fabulous story  
We fashion an empire's glory;  
One man with a dream, at pleasure,  
Shall go forth and conquer a crown;  
And three with a new song's measure  
Can trample a kingdom down.*

In the old Ancient and Modern there was a hymn that started "Art thou weary, art thou languid" which used to make people smile. In our own Common Praise there is one strange line at the end of Once in Royal David's City: "All in white shall wait around."

You will probably have your own library of striking bits and pieces from the hymns. They are a wonderful resource and it is so good to be in a congregation that sings well and with joy and sensitivity.

**Brian Adams**

**PRAYER DIARY.** Our new bi-monthly prayer diary is available on the church website – [www.ebbchurches.org.uk](http://www.ebbchurches.org.uk) Printed copies are available in the church porch. This will be a valuable resource for those who are currently participating in the life of daily prayer in this parish and is like throwing a lasso of prayer around the church - globally, nationally, county-wide and here in our own community. It includes the Cycle of Prayer for the Worldwide Anglican Communion, Chichester Diocesan Intercessions, names of the roads, schools and care homes in the parish and names of individuals and groups who work and worship at St Peter's.

# A big thank you!!



As I am writing this, I have realised that it is the anniversary of Prime Minister, Boris Johnson announcing the first lockdown. What a year it has been. I don't think that we realised then how much of an impact that the Covid-19 virus would have on the way we lead our lives.

The weather in April and May was rather glorious and gave way to tending gardens, taking exercise and walks along the seafront and zoomed church services. So, body and soul were cared for. Food shopping proved difficult for a while, but wonderful voluntary services popped up and slowly the supermarkets improved their volume of home delivery. At the end of May we thought the worst had passed and were encouraged to "Eat out to Help out" but it was a false dawn and now that we are hopefully nearing the end of the third lockdown, we face the realisation that the virus is not going away and we will have to manage our life styles to keep it at bay. The vaccination programme helps to give us confidence that we can do this.

The last year has also had an impact on our finances. Without our usual ability to socialise and fund raise we have not been able to cover our monthly costs. But the wonderfully generous donations to church funds that have been made throughout the past year have been exceptional and have greatly helped to close the gap. This has meant that we have not had to delve too deeply into our valuable reserves. Thank you all so much.

We are not going to be able to swing back into fund raising mode for a few more months yet, so if anyone would like to donate it would be warmly welcomed. There is a card terminal in the church available at those times when St Peter's is open, or alternatively the bank details are:  
East Blatchington PCC  
Santander  
09-01-51  
87169403

Once again, with many thanks on behalf of the PCC,

**Chris Reynolds**  
Treasurer

## Now and Then

Now and then in wintertime when all is grim and grey,  
In between the storms and gales God sends a golden day.  
A morning bright with skies of blue that seem too lovely to be true.

Now and then in life's dark times of sorrow and distress  
In between the tears there comes a flash of happiness,  
A loving word, a tender smile making everything worthwhile.

Now and then we are given glimpses of a perfect Love -  
Breaking through our hearts like sunshine from above.  
A sudden glory fills the sky - an unseen Presence passes by.

These truly are Blessings from God.

A poem which seems very appropriate as we emerge from a rather bleak winter and a third Covid 19 lockdown, sent in by **Rita King** from Brighton who is a member of our church family.



# St Peter's at prayer in April and May



## Services online

**Sunday 10.30am Mass** This service will be live-streamed on YouTube (see page 5 for the web links) and on Facebook which can be accessed through our website:- [www.ebbchurches.org.uk](http://www.ebbchurches.org.uk)  
A dial-in option is also available (details from the Rector)

## Monday to Saturday

**9.30am Morning Prayer**

**7pm Compline**

Both services are online. The whole parish is asked to pray at these times, whether online or offline. Let us continue our spiritual fellowship and ask God to sustain us at this difficult time. Please use the Spiritual Resources booklets. NB. The new purple prayer books, if you have one, are now in use for the daily Prayers.

The services above will be streamed live on the internet at [www.facebook.com/StPetersEB](https://www.facebook.com/StPetersEB)

**'BREATHING SPACE'**, our silent prayer meeting, takes place online ... on Zoom! **6pm every Monday.**

New folk and returners are all invited to come and keep this space of contemplation and peace within our complicated and busy world.

**The Zoom ID for every week will be:**

Meeting ID: 851 6436 0499

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85164360499>

This is a recurring meeting every Monday at 6pm



## Prayers for the Sick

*Please remember in your prayers:*

Tina Bacon,  
Peter Thompson, Hilary Warner,  
Joanne Cooke, Beryl Henley,  
Annifer Hatcher, Jessica,  
Sarah Read, Harry Anderson,  
Pam Taggart, Kayleigh Ivers,  
Carole Tidy,  
Lindi Curtis, Joseph Murphy,  
Ian Rothery



If you would like your name or that of a relative or friend added to this list, then please let me or Kay know. Although not exclusively so, it is for those with an ongoing or recurring illness or condition rather than a short term one.

Christine

## We give thanks for the advances with the COVID vaccine and pray for ...

- \* everyone in our parish who in different ways has tried to cope with another lockdown, that God will give us patience, comfort, strength and a positive attitude to face each day, hope for the success of the vaccines and a return to a more normal life in the coming months.
- \* all those suffering from Coronavirus Covid 19, and the families and loved ones of those who are ill or have died.
- \* the isolated, the lonely, the vulnerable, the despairing, the homeless, the hungry, families in hardship and those who have lost their jobs or are facing unemployment.
- \* all NHS, care home workers and those helping to deliver the vaccination programme.
- \* the government and parliament, and all those making important decisions about our future.
- \* Arwen, Fr Trevor, Fr Eric, Fr John, Fr Chris, Kay and all the pastoral team in the benefice.



# St Peter's Church

## East Blatchington, Seaford

**Open hearted, Open minded, Open to all, Open again soon**

**RECTOR** *Rev'd Arwen Folkes 892964 email: rectoryebb@gmail.com*

**HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS** *Fr Eric Pollard 492312, Fr John Harrington 351816, Fr Chris Collison 892364*

**READER** *Kay Blackburn 893172*

**CHURCHWARDENS** *Nick Linsell 896314 Juliet Mitton 893963*

**Website:** [www.ebbchurches.org.uk](http://www.ebbchurches.org.uk)

**Twitter:** [www.twitter.com/StPetersEastB](https://www.twitter.com/StPetersEastB) **Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/StPetersEB](https://www.facebook.com/StPetersEB)

**Wedding, Baptism and Funeral enquiries:** *The Rector 892964*

**Pastoral care:** To request prayer and seek any other support, spiritual or practical during the Corona Covid-19 crisis: *Kay Blackburn 893172*

Festivals, Holy Days, meditations, study groups and prayer vigils as announced

The church is opening soon for public worship. The porch is open daily 9am to 4pm for Seahaven Storehouse foodbank donations, deliveries and collections. The church will be open daily for private prayer 10am to 3pm from Monday in Holy week, March 29th.

Sunday services, albeit with limited numbers, will resume on April 18th. Please keep an eye on the weekly Bulletin, notice boards and the website for details.

Please see page 18 for details of our online services.

**PCC SECRETARY** *Geraldine Hedgecock 872398 email: pccstpeters@gmail.com*

**PCC TREASURER** *Chris Reynolds 490944 email: cjr911@me.com*

**PLANNED GIVING SCHEME** *If you would like to join this scheme please contact Elizabeth Pay 894799*

**CROSS KEYS EDITOR** *Christine Cooke 490548 email: christinecooke.xks@gmail.com*

**HALL BOOKINGS** *Jacqueline Head 07766 900909 email: jacquelinemhead@icloud.com*

**HOMELINK** help for the homeless: *Jenny Baker 890612*

Mothers' Union: *Marilyn Haydon 898314*

Reading Group: *Kay Blackburn 893172*

East Blatchington Lectures: *Shirley Linsell 891910*

Art and Craft Group: *Valerie Skues 897306*

St Peter's reg. charity no.: 1173506

Should you need another copy of this magazine, there are spares in the church porch. If you cannot get there, please let me know and I will deliver one to your door. **Christine 490548**

Photos by Phil Sutters, Christine Cooke, Rev'd Arwen Folkes, contributors and from the Internet (Wikipedia.org, Commons Wikimedia.org, Commons Media, Creative commons, Clipart, p5 Didier B (Sam67fr) p8 EFRS/ Twitter ).

**A full colour version of this Cross Keys along with previous ones can be viewed on the benefice website:- [www.ebbchurches.org.uk](http://www.ebbchurches.org.uk)**

# Meeting for a chat in the churchyard



Rector Arwen



Sylvia and Bert



Daphne and Linda



Angela

Taking advantage of the law allowing us to meet for coffee, the Rector has been making full use of the new bench (given in memory of Rod Partlett). Contact Arwen if you'd like to bring your own coffee and meet for a chat. Do also look out for two more new benches appearing in the churchyard soon.



Jane



Coryn passes by



The inscription on the bench



**Wishing a Happy, Joyful, Peaceful and Blessed Easter to you all. Please remember that Covid-19 hasn't gone away - TAKE CARE AND STAY SAFE!**

