

March

2024



Bexhill Team Ministry
St. Peter with St. Michael and all Angels

Team Rector	Revd Stephen Need (547906) <i>(not available on Mondays)</i>
Team Vicar at St Michael's	Rev Carol Cockcroft (322161)
Hon. Assistant Clergy	Revd Keith Williams (734093) Revd Mel Durrant (470737) Revd Simon Earl (842179) Revd Stephanie Prosser mumsteph@icloud.com Revd Frances Baldwin.....(842864)
Reader	Miss Alison Marchant (216466)
St. Peter's & Parish Wardens	Miss Cathy Gillman (223686) Mr Chris Miles (07946 568 203)
St. Michael's Wardens	Iain Scott-Dickeson (730653)
St. Peter's Acting Director of Music	Mr Mark Napier
St. Peter's Verger	Mrs Helen Cunliffe (844916)
PCC Secretary	Revd Stephanie Prosser Email
PCC Treasurer	Mr Nigel Ball
St. Peter's Treasurer	Mr Alan Simmons
St. Michael's Treasurer	Mr Nigel Ball
St. Peter's DCC Secretary	Vacant
Electoral Roll Officer	Mrs Helen Cunliffe (844916)
St. Peter's Bell Ringers	Mrs Judith Stiles (224120) Mr Richard Kennard (213849)
St. Peter's Stewardship Officer	Mrs Judy Earl
St. Peter's Community Centre	Warden - Mrs Heidi Miles (219908)
St. Michael's Community Centre	Bookings - Mrs Edna Akam ednaakam@googlemail.com

Parish Office - Mrs Caroline Young - Rector's Secretary

St. Peter's Stables, Church Street, TN40 2HE

Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday (9.00am - 1.00pm)

Email: parish.office@stpetersbexhill.org.uk

Tel:- 01424 734438

	Page
Pastoral Letter	4-5
News from St Michael's	6-7
Valentine Supper	7
World Day of Prayer	8
Woollie Hat Sunday	8
St Michael's Church	9
Parish Giving Scheme	10-11
Faith Traveller	12
Beetle Drive	13
St Peter's Nativity	14-15
St Michael's Pancake Party	16
Lent Lunches	17
Hopes - House of Prayer	18-19
TFG	20-21
Good Friday Crafts	22
Jumble Sale	23
Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association	24-25
What's on at st Michael's	26
Youth Alpha Course	27
Who is Who and What do they do?	28-31
Our Bellringers	29
Save the Date	32
Jubilate	33
Green Sport	34-35
Lent and Easter at St Michael's	35
Prayer - Under Hope 23-24 Mission	36-38
Parish Diary of services and events	54-56

Copy for next month's magazine by
8th March
 please email to parish.office@stpetersbexhill.org.uk

Pastoral Letter

Well, here we are, coming into March with the spring growth, including the daffodils and tulips coming into bloom, together with lots of other reminders of God's love for us all. We are now in Lent so, have you been to a Lent Lunch yet? The details are elsewhere in this magazine. Maybe you have also given up something for Lent or perhaps, as many do these days, taken on something extra for the period. This is then a positive way of preparing for Easter which is the very last day of this month. There are a number of Lent books that can be used to help in your observance. There is a Library at the back of St. Peter's Church which has books that can be borrowed and used in a similar way.

This month is full of church dates relating to people and events as we move towards Easter. We start on the very first day with the remembrance of St. David who is the Patron Saint of Wales and later (on 17th) St. Patrick who is the Patron Saint of Ireland. Previously (on 10th), we will have celebrated Mothering Sunday. On this day, we take the opportunity not only to thank God for our Mother Church but also to thank Him for the mothers, or mother figures, in our own lives. This can sometimes be a sad time for those whose mothers are no longer alive or are estranged from them. This could be opportunity for the rest of us to support them over that weekend and at other times. On 25th, we celebrate the Annunciation (often called Lady Day) when the Angel told Mary that she was going to be the mother of our Saviour. The day before, we will have Palm Sunday, reminding us of Jesus' ride into Jerusalem on the donkey. The end of that week brings us to Good Friday and Easter Day both of which remind us of what being a Christian really means. What an amazing month with all these reminders of ways in which God has provided for us in the past and still does.

I thought I would finish with a verse from Mark's gospel. Mark is the gospel we are mainly reading this year in the Sunday lectionary readings.

The verse is Mark 15 verse 39 which is from one of the lectionary readings available for use this coming Palm Sunday. It reads: “And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, ‘Surely this man was the Son of God!’” So, if the Roman Centurian is convinced (and he was there!), it clearly demonstrates that the person who they had just crucified really was the Son of God. A great encouragement for us to believe it, too!

May God Bless you during this Lenten period and as you seek to get alongside someone who needs to know of God's love for them.

Peter Ewen

St Peter's
Retiring Collections

St Peters DCC is pleased to announce that the retiring collections for 2024 will be;

March	Jerusalem and the middle East Church Association (JMECA)
May	Christian Aid
July	Christian's Against Poverty (Cap)
September	Chestnut Tree House
November	Combat Stress for Veteran's Mental Health

Please look out for the dates of these worthwhile collections in the weekly news and for articles in the Parish Magazines

News from St Michael's

Lent is traditionally a season of reflection in the Christian calendar and I hope that many of you will have had the opportunity to attend some or all of the Saturday morning prayers.

How does your day start? Is it filled with concerns and worries the demands of the day regrets anxieties about news from around the world leaving you with no room for contemplation or meditation.

We live in a world full of busyness the background noise of TV, radio music, traffic people rushing here and there. Some glued to their mobile phones but where is the stillness and quiet.

Try to step aside from the frantic demands of daily life and make time for moments of stillness. It just might change your life and just maybe this mad world in which we live.

Instead of worrying about problems, fretting about the past and wishing for a better life full of material things, why not see each moment as a gift. A gift from God.

The only thing that we have with any certainty is this moment in time. The challenge set before us is to dwell in this moment with joy and passion and embrace a better future by caring for not only ourselves not one another in the present.

There are many passages in the gospels where we see Jesus throughout his ministry being on his own being still and making time for prayer and reflection. Moments of intimacy and waiting for God. particularly on the night before he dies he waits and prays earnestly.

After he dies his disciples are left in despair. Their dreams shattered but in the following days and the events following the resurrection their lives are turned around. Jesus asks them to wait and pray for the Holy Spirit.

Then their lives are transformed beyond their wildest dreams when the Holy Spirit descends upon them.

Most surely the message of Easter for all is that there is hope that there is life after death.

I hope for a kinder world without violence hunger and poverty where all can live in harmony and peace that the way things are is not the way it will always be.

Close your eyes be still. Surround yourself in silence take hold of this life and dwell in the moment.

Thank you and with best wishes

Iain

VALENTINE SUPPER

St. Michael's welcomed approximately 40 people to their Valentine Supper last month.

A delicious three course meal was prepared by Hazel Rose and her team (see below) and Robin Jackman provided musical entertainment. It was a lovely evening and a total of £340 was raised for OPEN DOORS, a charity which supports believers who are persecuted for their faith.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Theme: "I beg you, bear one another in love"

This year the Christian Women of Palestine are calling us to connect with the land from where Jesus came; where he was born, ministered and died - and from where our faith began and is rooted. The Theme of the Service for 2024 "bear one another in love" seems very appropriate for these women who will not give up witnessing the love of Jesus Christ.

We will gather to celebrate the Service on **Friday, 1st March, 2024** at St. Stephen's Church, Newlands Avenue, Bexhill and St. Mark's Church, Green Lane, Little Common, both Services start at 10.30pm.

Woollie Hat Sunday

We at St Michael's Church had Woollie Hat Sunday on 21st January and all the hats were blessed by Rev'd Carol ready to be sent to Mission to Seamen.

We are sending 70 hats and just want to thank everyone who either knitted or bought some.

Margaret Shotter
Mission to Seamen Rep



Family Events and Services at
St Michael's Church

Glassenbury Drive, TN40 2NY

Get in touch:

Rev Carol Cockcroft, Vicar 01424 322161

carol.cockcroft2@btinternet.com

**Mini Messy Church
at St Michael's**

1030 1st Sunday
of the month

30 minutes of fun
activities and worship



**Family Services
at St Michael's with
uniformed groups**
1030 3rd Sunday
of the month

**Special Event -
Easter Craft at
St Michael's**
**Craft Activities with
Egg Hunt**
Good Friday 29th March
10-12 noon



PARISH GIVING SCHEME

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) is an important source of income for our Church

For any Church to not only to SURVIVE but also to GROW it needs regular donations so that it can confidently plan for the future.

Donations made via PGS are paid from your bank account by Direct Debit and you can amend your donation at any time.

Currently we receive £4252.15 per month and from our taxpaying brethren this is topped up by a further 948.27 per month claimed from HMRC in respect of gift aid. There are people who elect to make their donation either quarterly or annually so at various points in the year this figure will increase.

In 2023 the total value of donations (including gift aid) was £62807 the total we have received since people started using Parish Giving is over £400,000 as you see from the figures it is an essential part of our income. The projected value for 2024 is currently £65976 although there is the occasional increase or decrease in the donations it sadly does not keep pace with the increases in the cost of running the church

Although we do claim gift aid on the green envelope and most payments by standing order this is at the end of a quarter, gift aid via PGS is much quicker increasing the income we have available each month.

If you do not already use PGS we would invite you to consider it.

If you already use PGS then a huge thank you but can we ask you to consider when you last reviewed your giving.

If you are a taxpayer your donation can be increased at no cost to you, as St Peters is able to claim Gift Aid”

For anybody who would like to amend their donations it can be done by

Email Info@parishgiving.org.uk

or

Phone 0333 002 1271

If you would like to set up a donation it can be done

Online: Parishgiving.Org.uk/home/

By Phone: 0333 002 1271

Alternatively, if you would prefer a paper application form this can be obtained from Alan Simmons.

At present the Parish Giving Scheme is only set up for donations from members of St Peter’s Church

However, you make your donation to our Church thank you for keeping it alive.

Please note that Parish Giving only currently applies to St Peters Church

Coffee Concert in St Peter’s Church
Saturday April 27

Organ recital with Andrew McGregor
Coffee at 10am, music at 10.30am
Free entry with donations



Faith Traveller - A new House Group

We still have space for late starters!!!

Not done house group before?

Looking for something new or different?

Why not try Faith Traveller with Simon Earl?

Come on a journey of exploration of our faith.



What's it all about?

The house group with a difference

Or a mystery tour of faith



At a time that even those who work can be involved

The intention is for it to have a light touch format.

A chance to ask those questions about our faith that you have never had the courage to ask, or share your experience with people who are maybe in a similar situation.

A chance to listen and a chance to speak.

Tuesday's @ 7.30 fortnightly

Want to talk more about it?

Catch me over coffee after Sunday Service or
call me on either 07971952880 or 01424 842179

WhatsApp me on the mobile.

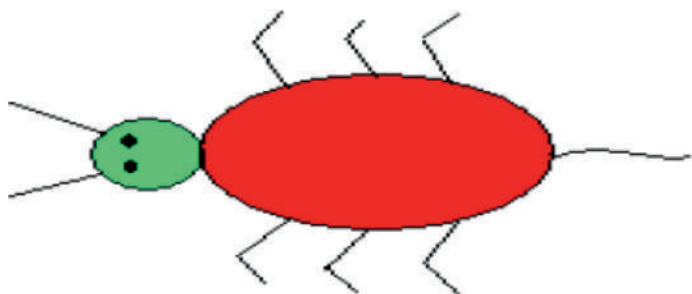
Or email me: srearl@btinternet.com



BEE TLE DRIVE

IN AID OF ST MICHAEL'S HALL FUNDS

SATURDAY 13th APRIL AT 6.00pm
IN ST MICHAEL'S LARGE HALL



£7 TO INCLUDE SUPPER

Admission by ticket only

PLEASE BRING
OWN DRINK AND PENCIL

RAFFLE

Ticket obtainable from

Marie Williams (225043)

at St Michael's or The Parish office

St Peter's Nativity

On 17th December, St Peter's congregations were treated to a musical version of the Nativity, by the Junior choir. This was performed on the stage of the Community Centre, accompanied on the piano by Alex Thomson with costumes by Ruth Elias and lighting and sound by Chris Miles.

The cast was supplemented by the addition of Mark and Malcolm from the adult choir, who nearly stole the show as they followed the Star riding on their "camels". Many thanks to everyone who lent us their hobbyhorses! The young singers had worked hard to present confident solos, great acting and choral backing. Thank you for your continuing support.

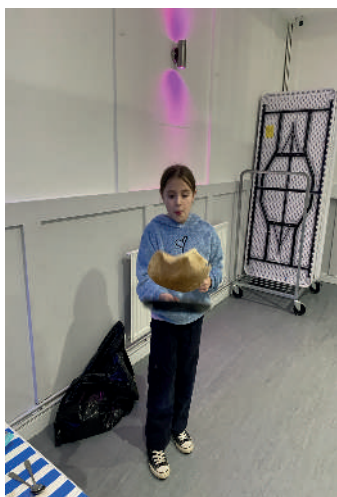
Jacquelyn Wynter





St Michael's Pancake Party

The **St. Michael's PANCAKE PARTY** held at Pebsham Hub on Shrove Tuesday proved to be a great success. Over 60 pancakes were consumed by the families that came along and the hot chocolate went down very well too. Revd.Carol spoke briefly on what Shrove Tuesday was all about after which several of the children took it in turns to flip the pancakes. Great fun!





LENT LUNCHES 2024

**Our series of simple lunches continue on
the following Tuesdays at the**

**COMMUNITY CENTRE
from 12.30pm**

5th March – prepared by the Bellringers

12th March – prepared by the Housegroups

19th March – prepared by the Clergy

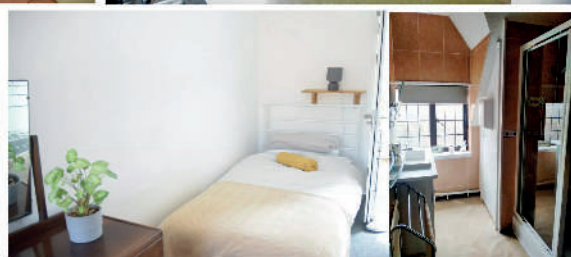
**Cost of lunch £5
(includes tea or coffee)**

Proceeds to CHRISTIAN AID

ALL WELCOME

**We welcome you
to stay with us!**

Selah: An invitation to pause, reflect, listen and commune



Whilst we encourage you to come to HOPES for the day, We can offer our guests the chance to also encounter the peace of God at The Coach House by staying.

We have two twin rooms and one single room at HOPES for you to come for rest and refreshment.

Staying is on a self-catering basis at a cost of £40 pounds, per person, per night.

BOOK DIRECT ONLINE

WWW.

**hopeastsussex.org/
comeandstay**

or contact 01424 210782/ 07840578677

HOPES, THE COACH HOUSE,
MANOR GARDENS, DE LA WARR
RD, BEXHILL,
TN40 2JA



At HOPES we believe Jesus is worthy of unceasing worship. We join ourselves with Heaven in exalting him through our schedule. We would love for you to join us.

The Quiet Space @ 9.15-10.15am

Do you need to stop and rest a while? Jesus said, "There is need of only one thing". We take time each *Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday morning* to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to him speak. This involves being led into the promises of God through the scriptures and incorporates a time of silence to listen/reflect on these truths.

Heart to Heart Worship @ 10.20 - 11.45am

We believe in being wholehearted in our pursuit of God and with this we want to minister to the Heart of God each *Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday morning*. We believe no matter what is going on for us, He is worthy of our praise! Our Christ centered spirit filled musical worship allows God to "encourage, strengthen and comfort" us by the gifts of his Spirit, as we enter his presence by faith.

The Treasure Room @ 7-9pm every Wednesday

Our vision at HOPES has been based on furnishing a space for Jesus to lay his head. A place where we express our loving attention for loves own sake towards God and his Word. "For Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" Matt 6:21 (Similar to The Quiet Place).

Prayer for UK & East Sussex @ 2-3pm every Thursday

Please join us as we intercede for our government, its leaders, our churches, and our wider communities.

Prayer for Bexhill @ 4-5.30pm every Thursday

Fellowship Fridays @ 2-4pm every Friday

A time to meet and encourage one another. We have an open house on a Friday afternoon to come for a warm drink and a warm welcome.

The Word @ 10am-12pm every Saturday

We love the word of God and believe that His 'word never comes back empty', so please join us every Saturday morning, as we read the Old and New Testament. Come just to listen and 'be washed by the Word' or join in as the word of God is declared.

For more information,
please contact us on:
info@hopeastsussex.org
or 07840578677 or
Whatsapp us to join our
Group.



A wise old man once said to me, *'I love the formal service because I know what is going to happen. I love the informal service because I don't'.* Both have their place, of course – come along to our United Holy Communion TfG Service at the beginning of March.

And then, when someone asks you what you did at the weekend. What will you reply? Will your conversation go something like this,

'Well, I went to see some friends.'

'Oh yes, what did you do?'

'Well, we sang some songs, and...'

'You sang some songs!'

'Yes'

'Where was this, then?'

'Well, it was at chur... well, umm...

how can I describe it...

it's a sort of club'

'A club?'

'Well, no, not a club.

Anyone can come...

you can come if you like...

I mean... it's quite good, really...'

'So, what do you do?'

'Well, we worsh... how can I describe it...

we sing some songs, and we learn about Je...'

And your friend finally cottons on, and asks

'Oh...! Did you go to church?!'

What do you say? And if they go on to ask all the questions about why bad things happen, about where God is, and what he is like – all the questions we ask in church – what do you say?

As Christians, we often think that we should be able to explain everything. We can feel embarrassed, even ashamed, when we are unable to explain what we believe, who Jesus is.

Don't panic.

At the start of John's Gospel, we read that

There was a man sent from God whose name was John.

This is a startlingly ordinary sentence. Perhaps you can identify with that ordinariness. So, what did John do?

He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

This is quite a statement. Let's do something with this. Let's change the name 'John' to *your* name. Now read it through again, adding *your* name. Imagine you are in the story – because you are!

There was a person sent from God whose name was

He/she came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him/her all might believe. He/she himself was not the light; he/she came only as a witness to the light.

Now there's a thought!

How does it feel to be named as one sent by God as a witness?

After all, we are *all* chosen by God. We can all share the Good News. We can all simply tell *our* story. When you are asked what you did on Sunday, perhaps it is just a case of being confident enough to say something like,

'Oh, I went to church. It was good. We learnt a bit more about Jesus, and sang, and prayed and worshipped. And laughed. And drank coffee. Would you like to come next time? It's really quite fun!'

The worst anyone can do is laugh back. And you might just come across someone who has been waiting to be asked. You never know, you might be the one to help them make sense of the world and find out why they are alive!

MD

Calling all children ages 5-11

Come to St Michael's Good Friday Crafts

Friday 29th March 2024

Craft

10:00am to 12 noon

Easter Egg Hunt



Drinks and hot cross buns

St Michael's Church Hall, Glassenbury Drive, TN40 2NY

Just come along at 10:00am with £1 and a hard-boiled egg

www.stmichaelsbexhill.org





St Michael and All Angels
Glassenbury Drive, Bexhill, TN40 2NY
(Registered Charity No. 1131504)

Jumble Sale

Saturday 16th March

doors open 10:00am Large Hall to 12:00 noon



Admission is 50p adults, children free
Tea and Coffee in Small Hall
www.stmichaelsbexhill.org

The Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association



Our Retiring Collection at St. Peter's on Sunday 17th March is for JMECA

So, what is JMECA?

JMECA is a charity that raises money to help Anglican Christians in the Middle East. Its origins go all the way back to the early years of the Church of England in Jerusalem in the nineteenth century. Following several years of missionary activity in the area, the Anglican Christ Church was opened in the Old City in 1841. Queen Victoria of England and King Frederick William IV of Prussia clinched a deal and set up an official Protestant presence. But by 1887 the Prussians had pulled out, leaving the British in sole charge.

By the end of the century, St. George's Anglican Cathedral had been built outside the Old City to the north. Bishop George Blyth was the one who had the vision for this and to help sustain it he started a fund called the Jerusalem and the East Mission Trust (JEMT). This helped provide funding for the growing number of Anglican Christians in the area at that time. In due course churches, schools and hospitals were built and eventually the Anglican diocese grew into a province holding several dioceses together.

So it was that in due course JEMT was incorporated into a wider organisation called Jerusalem and the Middle East Church Association

JMECA which continues to fund projects throughout the Middle East today. There are now two Anglican provinces: Jerusalem and the Middle East; and Alexandria. The areas covered are Jerusalem, the Palestinian territories, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria; Cyprus and the Gulf, Iran, Egypt, North Africa, Ethiopia and Gambella. In addition to helping Anglicans in the diocese of Jerusalem in the last year, JMECA has supported victims of the Syrian earthquake, and repairs to St. Peter's Anglican Church in Jaffa. Students attending St. George's College in Jerusalem are sometimes supported by a JMECA grant. My wife Jill and I worked at St. George's College for several years.

One of the most significant institutions supported by JMECA is the Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza. Founded by the Baptist Church, it was later taken over by the Anglicans. For years it has worked in increasingly difficult circumstances. Most of us have seen what has been happening in Israel and Gaza since October last year but the hospital has been working against many odds for decades and has remained open despite very difficult circumstances. The current situation in Gaza and in the Middle East generally is beyond desperate.

I hope that you will feel able to donate something, however small, to the work of JMECA on Sunday 17th March.

Thank you in advance for your kind generosity.

Rev Stephen Need

What's on at St Michael's - March 2024



Sunday 3rd

10.00am Joint Non-Eucharistic Service at **St Peter's with TFG**



Wednesday 6th

11.00am Said Holy Communion - Rev. Carol Cockcroft



Sunday 10th

10.30am **Mothering Sunday** - Family Service with uniformed groups - Rev. Carol Cockcroft



Wednesday 13th

11.00am Said Holy Communion - Rev. Carol Cockcroft

Sunday 17th

10.30am Sung Holy Communion - Rev. Carol Cockcroft



Wednesday 20th

11.00am Said Holy Communion - Rev. Carol Cockcroft



Sunday 24th

10.30am **Palm Sunday** - Sung Holy Communion - Rev. Carol Cockcroft



Wednesday 27th

11.00am Said Holy Communion - Rev. Carol Cockcroft



Thursday 28th

7.30pm **Maundy Thursday** - Said Holy Communion - Rev. Carol Cockcroft



Friday 29th

2.00pm **Good Friday** - Reflection - Rev Carol Cockcroft



Sunday 31st

10.30am **Easter Day** - Sung Holy Communion - Rev. Carol Cockcroft

Other



Mondays (every other Monday) - 12.00 - 2.00pm Lunch Club - Large Hall. For details contact Marie on 01424 225043



Tuesdays - 2.30pm - Healing Prayers in Small Hall

Fridays (every other) at 10.30am - Home Groups. For details contact John on 01424819493

Thursdays 2.30pm - Church Prayer Group in Prayer Room

Saturday 9th - 10.00-12.00 noon - Jumble Sale

Friday 29th - Good Friday Crafts - 10.00-12.00 noon



Bexhill Team Churches invite you to ...

Youth Alpha

Good things are better together.

We're born curious

STAY CURIOUS 



A friendly youth group to explore faith and
prepare for confirmation.

Thursday evenings 6 - 7pm at St Peter's
Community Centre TN40 2HE,

Contact: Rev Carol Cockcroft
carol.cockcroft2@btinternet.com

Who is Who and What do they do?

I hope you all had an opportunity to read the article in the January Magazine with the same title as this one. Having given a general overview of many of our volunteer groups in that information we are now, as promised, selecting one or two teams each month to bring you more specific details from the relevant Team Leader. We hope that with further information some of you might be prepared to come forward and volunteer to fill the many spaces requiring new volunteers in each area.

If you are interested in considering helping in an area, or want more information, please contact Caroline Young in our Parish Office and give her your contact information and she will pass it to the Team Leader who will then make contact with you. There will be no release of contact details without the approval of the owner.

Margaret Brett



In 2001 Edward Bryant Rector of St. Peter's asked me to establish a Friends of St. Peter's whose aim would be to raise funds to maintain the fabric of a beautiful church in excellent order. A committee of purposeful, efficient, and loyal parishioners was formed, and the Friends organisation was launched at Petertide 2001.

Since then through memberships fees (the same today as in 2001), donations, legacies, the sale of merchandise and fund raising events The

Friends of St. Peter's have raised in excess of £180,000 of which £125,000 has been given for work on the masonry, roof, guttering, heating and damp to ensure that our 1251 year old church will celebrate many notable anniversaries in the future.

Being a Friend is not just about maintaining the fabric of the church as they over the years have organised many social events such as Banquets- Saxon, Medieval and Victorian; talks by eminent historians and theologians and afternoon teas.

The Friends were established primarily to attract those within Bexhill and elsewhere who were not necessarily members of the congregation but people who valued and loved the ancient church for all sorts of reasons and our membership today is a healthy mixture of those who are members of our congregation and those who are not.

I and my loyal and hard-working committee would love to have many more Friends and if you are interested in becoming one or knowing more about us, please contact me.

Roger Elias

01424 211176, drreglias@hotmail.com

OUR BELLRINGERS RECENTLY RANG 2 QUARTER PEALS

On 20 January we rang one in thanksgiving for the life of Brian Gulliver.

On 6 January we rang one for Roy Cox's 80th Birthday. Roy says thank you to all those who helped him celebrate with cake in the Community Centre, thanks also to Caroline for the Happy Birthday notice in The Parish News.

Best Wishes, Roy



The Role of Stewards and Welcomers in St Peter's Parish

The Stewards and Welcomers in the Church and at TFG have a vital role in the running of the services in St Peter's Parish: They ensure that the readers and intercessors are present, organise the collections and one member will take the offering up to the altar rail at the appropriate time. They make sure the congregation file up to communion in an orderly and respectful manner. They liaise with the clergy and vergers about the services and if any alterations need to be made. They always maintain the smooth running of all the services but this is particularly noticeable at Christmas, Easter and at other notable occasions: this is of course all due to their hard work and commitment.

The Stewards and Welcomers are always flexible and undertake ushering, counting the number of the congregation, collecting for the offertory, clearing and tidying up at the end of the services. They are always willing to help out during sickness or absence. The Welcomers are always there ready to greet people as they arrive and then direct them on to a Steward who will ensure they have a suitable seat and any service sheets, notices and a free Parish Magazine. The Welcomers and Stewards are also sensitive to anyone who may prefer to attend the church anonymously, respecting their anonymity but ready with a smile and cheerful Good Morning etc. responding as required.

The Stewards and Welcomers also give an outline of the services to newcomers and generally answer any questions they may have about the Parish, the activities that our Parish provides, and the Church's history; directing them to more in depth information if needed.

Our Stewards and Welcomers undertake a keen interest in all the parishioners and notice if someone is away, if someone is known to be ill, or if they are looking distressed or unwell and directing any concerns to the relevant person. In fact, they are always there to help and nurture people as needed.

Stewards and Welcomers often like to encourage newcomers to come to Coffee in the Community Centre after the service and to help them feel part of the St Peter's family.

The Stewards and Welcomers always enjoy a good tea party from time to time so that they can bring up any issues or comments they may have regarding the services. This also fosters good community between the Stewards/Welcomers.

The Clergy and Church Wardens are extremely grateful for the commitment of the Stewards and Welcomers each week and always register their appreciation of this ministry.

If you, or anyone you know, would be willing to help with this extremely important ministry, please put them in touch with me and we can have an informal chat answering any questions or assuring them of any concerns they may have.

1 Corinthians 12 vs 4-6

Alan Stevens. 01424 772196 07903543015
sam62stevens@gmail.com

St Peter's Easter Service

Palm Sunday - 8am Said Communion and 10am Eucharist. 10am TFG

Wednesday - Compline

Maundy Thursday - Sung Eucharist of Last Supper and watch til 10pm.

Good Friday - Liturgy 12 noon. Private Prayers 1pm - 3.30pm

Holy Saturday - 7.30pm Sung Eucharist with Blessing of New Fire

Easter Sunday - 8am Said Communion and 10am United Easter Service

SAVE THE DATE

There are many wonderful events planned at St Peter's Church and Community Centre in 2024. Please save the dates in your diary and watch this space for more information.

March

Lent Lunch - Community Centre, 12:30, Tuesdays - 05th, 12th, and 19th

April

09 – Movie lunch for kids, Community Centre, 11:00

13 – Afternoon Tea w/music, Community Centre, 3:00

27 – Concert in the church: coffee at 10am, music at 10.30am

May

18 - Bexhill Choral Society concert at 7.30pm in Church

26 – Wine and Nibbles following Evensong, in Church 7:00pm

June

9 – Parish Picnic following Service, Church grounds

9 - Sussex Concert Orchestra concert at 7.30pm in Church

28 - 30 – Flower Festival - "Jubilate, Blooming Joy", Church and Community Centre

July

20 – Tea, Cakes and Talents, Community Centre, 3:00

27 – Tea in the Garden, Hazel and Stuart Wood's Garden

September

22 – Harvest Lunch – Bring and Share, Community Centre, 12pm

October

11 – Friends of St. Peter's Church event

TBA - Coffee Concert, in Church

November

23 – Advent Faire, in Church and Community Centre, 10am – 2pm

December

01 – Advent Carol Service, in Church, 6pm

08 – Carols for all, in Church

15 – Living Crib followed by mulled wine and minced pies, Church

22 – 9 Lessons and Carols in Church, 6pm

Jubilate!

Blooming Joy!

Flower Festival, St. Peter's Church, Bexhill Old Town

28 – 30th June 2024

St Peter's Church Flower Guild along with Ninfield Flower Club will be capturing the joy of hymns through flower arrangements. Please consider financially sponsoring an arrangement for a hymn of your choice or for a

hymn chosen by another. General donations for flowers are also appreciated. Please contact Roger Elias (drreelias@hotmail.com or 01424 211176) for more information.

Look for future information on how we all can help make this Flower Festival a joyous occasion by volunteering for various roles during the weekend. Example, we will need church stewards, help in the kitchen, sell raffle tickets, plus other enjoyable opportunities.

Watch this space each month for more information!



Green Spot



Switching to an Ethical Bank

This Lent three Christian campaign groups, Operation Noah, Just Love, and JustMoney, are launching [The Big Bank Switch campaign](#). They are inviting Christians around the UK to align their money with their values by switching from a bank that funds planet-destroying fossil fuels to one that doesn't.

The climate crisis isn't just happening, it's being funded – sometimes by those of us who are most concerned about caring for God's creation, and all because we have a bank account with HSBC, Barclays, Santander, NatWest, Chase, Lloyds or another high street bank.

Banks make their profits by investing in projects, owning shares in other companies, and lending money (with interest). For most banks in the UK, this involves directing a portion of their funds towards companies which are involved in fossil fuel extraction and expansion: the driving cause of climate breakdown. Between 2015 and 2021 banks have pumped over £4.4 trillion into the fossil fuel industry.

The good news is that some green banks are already paving the way. Green banking is the practice of using customer power to support a bank which does not actively contribute to climate breakdown. Plus, giving support to the social and environmental projects green banks often invest in instead.

The Big Bank Switch campaign is encouraging people to switch their bank account to a green bank on 21 April 2024. Operation Noah, Just Love and JustMoney have partnered with Switch it Green who have made it easy, quick and safe to switch to a trusted, ethical UK bank. Their aim is that many Christians taking this action on the same day will deliver a clear message to bank executives that we have no faith in fossil fuels, pressuring these banks to stop funding climate breakdown.

Why are these Christian organisations launching this campaign? They believe that God's creation is a gift that we have a duty to care for, and that the wellbeing of creation matters to God. To quote Phoebe Edmonds, a Quaker, 'I have a deep concern for our global and local community because of my faith, and so could no longer use a bank which didn't also respect this, or caused intentional harm to others.'

Barbara Echlin



Lent and Easter 2024 at St Michael and All Angels

Saturday 9th March 10.00am-12.00noon – Prayer Stations – The Universal Welcome

Saturday 22nd March 10.00am-12.00noon – Prayer Stations – The New Creation

Sunday 10th March 10.30am – Mothering Sunday – Family Services – Rev. Carol Cockcroft

Sunday 24th March 10.30am – Palm Sunday – Sung Holy Communion – Rev. Carol Cockcroft

Thursday 28th March 7.30pm – Maundy Thursday – Said Holy Communion – Rev. Carol Cockcroft

Friday 29th March 10.00am – Good Friday Crafts – Large Hall

Friday 29th March 2.00pm – Good Friday – Reflection – Rev. Carol Cockcroft

Sunday 31st March 10.30pm – Easter Day – Sung Holy Communion – Rev. Carol Cockcroft

PRAYER – Under Hope 23/24 Mission

PRAYER prepares the ground and anchors everything in Kingdom soil. The mission begins, ends, and depends on prayer. So, before you make any plans or DO anything we encourage you to stop and pray. Don't pray for what you have decided to do. Pray to discern what it is that God wants you to do.

Where?

It's helpful to have a clear sense of where you are praying for. Start big and define a geographical area to hold out before God. It might be the community or parish your church is in and serves. Start big and let God guide you if and where you need to focus in. You may then want to create a visual prompt and prioritize this area, this could be a map on a wall, a website or even an app.

How?

Decide how you will approach prayer. We suggest you keep it simple but layer it so that as many people can join in as possible. Consider having individual, group and community layers of prayer, each with a slightly different rhythm. Individual Prayer prompts for people to use to pray on their own. What are the key things to pray for locally and daily? Groups Prayer prompts for groups e.g. small groups to use when they meet together weekly. Opportunities for individuals to come together to pray e.g. once a week in person or online, a WhatsApp prayer group chat or a Facebook group. You might want to think about the geography of your community and what structures shape and define it e.g. you could pray in postcode groups or by boroughs, estates, roundabouts, etc.

Community – A designated time when everyone can come together, perhaps monthly, to listen to God and to each other; share what they have heard and celebrate answers to prayer; and discern the next steps. "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare". Jeremiah 29:7 3.

Who?

Whilst it's essential to mobilise and include as many people in prayer as possible, we would encourage you to have a prayer core group. The core group can weigh and discern the prayers from everyone else to provide leadership, encouragement and direction for the community gatherings. We would also encourage you to think across churches. How can churches in your area come together to pray for it? Perhaps there's an existing structure e.g. a 'Churches Together' network, or perhaps it's right to create one. Unity is missional; cross-church collaboration is attractive to those seeking God and community. God blesses unity.

When?

A layered approach to prayer should mean that there is always prayer happening; that people can opt to join in daily, weekly and monthly. Consider varying the times of the day so that those who work can also join in. Could you have a 7 am prayer slot so people can choose to pray before work? Video streaming prayer times can also make prayer accessible to those who find it harder to get out perhaps because of children at home, time or illness.

Why?

Prayer invites God into the conversation, God who is capable of anything and for whom nothing is impossible. Prayer changes things. Why wouldn't we pray? Praying is the single most important action before mission planning...or anything! A year of mission may not be enough time to completely change a church's approach to prayer, but it might be an opportunity to develop and refresh it. Think about the existing culture of prayer in the church. How can you build on it? Perhaps you could include prayers for mission during prayer time in weekly services? Perhaps you already offer daily prayer which could then pivot to include mission plans. Maybe you have small groups that meet who would be willing to adopt and pray for aspects of your mission plans. Do you meet with other churches to pray, and could you do something together? Aim to make prayer accessible to everyone so that the whole people of God in a place are praying for their streets and the places they go to every day. 'The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.' James 5:16

4 Ways of Praying

- Make prayer simple and accessible.
- Invite people to think of 5 friends/neighbours who don't know Jesus whom they could pray for regularly.
- Make prayer a habit. People are too busy for something new, something extra. How could prayer be linked to something we already do every day e.g. taking a shower, putting the kettle on, or driving the car? Two minutes a day can make a massive difference if lots of people join in and just pray.
- To develop a habit, you might want to gather a group to focus on local mission together.

Any suggestions or queries to Caroline at the Parish Office or email parish.office@stpetersbexhill;

John Fowler jsfowler66@hotmail.com; 07960570435 01424 222148

Diary Dates for April

Tue 9 th	11am	Movie lunch for kids, St Peter's Community Centre
Sat 13 th	3pm	Afternoon Tea w/music, St Peter's Community Centre
	6pm	Beetle Drive @ St Michael's, see page 13
Sat 27 th	10am	Concert in St Peter's church: coffee at 10am, music at 10.30am



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t 01424 215116 e info@bexhillcaringcommunity.org

w www.bexhillcaringcommunity.org

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Parish Diary - March 2024

Fri 1 st	5:30pm	Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
Sun 3 rd	<i><u>The Third Sunday of Lent</u></i>	
	8am	Said Communion @ St Peter's
	10am	United Service @ St Peter's Community Centre
	11am-2pm	Private Prayers @ St Peter's
	6pm	Evensong @ St Peter's
Tue 5 th	9.30am-noon	Crafty Together @ St Peter's Community Centre
	10am-noon	Coffee Morning @ St Peter's Community Centre
	12:30pm	Lent Lunch @ St Peter's Community Centre
	5:30pm	Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
	7pm or 7:30pm	Faith Traveller - A New House Group
Wed 6 th	9:30am-noon	Sewing Guild @ St Peter's Community Centre
	10am	Said Communion @ St Peter's
	11am	Said Communion @ St Michael's
	11am-2pm	Private Prayers @ St Peter's
	5:30pm	Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
Thu 7 th	2:30-3:30pm	Pray Together @ St Michael's Vicarage, 20 Glassenbury Drive
	5:30pm	Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
	6pm-7pm	Youth Alpha @ St Peter's Community Centre
Fri 8 th	5:30pm	Stations of the Cross @ St Peter's
Sat 9 th	10am-noon	Saturday Morning Prayer Station @ St Michael's
Sun 10 th	<i><u>The Frouth Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday</u></i>	
	8am	Said Communion @ St Peter's
	10am	Family Service @ St Peter's
	10:30am	Family Service with Uniformed Groups @ St Michael's
	11am-2pm	Private Prayers @ St Peter's
	6pm	Evensong @ St Peter's

Tue 12 th	9.30am-noon	Crafty Together @ St Peter's Community Centre
	10am-noon	Coffee Morning @ St Peter's Community Centre
	12:30pm	Lent Lunch @ St Peter's Community Centre
	5:30pm	Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
	7pm or 7:30pm	Faith Traveller - A New House Group
Wed 13 th	9:30am-noon	Sewing Guild @ St Peter's Community Centre
	10am	Said Communion @ St Peter's
	11am	Said Communion @ St Michael's
	11am-2pm	Private Prayers @ St Peter's
	5:30pm	Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
Thu 14 th	2:30-3:30pm	Pray Together @ St Michael's Vicarage, 20 Glassenbury Drive
	5:30pm	Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
	6pm-7pm	Youth Alpha @ St Peter's Community Centre
Fri 15 th	5:30pm	Stations of the Cross @ St Peter's
Sat 16 th	10am-noon	Jumble Sale @ St Michael's ... see page 21
Sun 17 th	<u>The Fifth Sunday of Lent</u>	
	8am	Said Communion @ St Peter's
	10am	Sung Eucharist @ St Peter's
	10am	TFG @ St Peter's Community Centre
	10:30am	Sung Holy Communion @ St Michael's
	11am-2pm	Private Prayers @ St Peter's
	6pm	Evensong @ St Peter's
Tue 19 th	9.30am-noon	Crafty Together @ St Peter's Community Centre
	10am-noon	Coffee Morning @ St Peter's Community Centre
	5:30pm	Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
	12:30pm	Lent Lunch @ St Peter's Community Centre
	7pm or 7:30pm	Faith Traveller - A New House Group ... see page 12
Wed 20 th	9:30am-noon	Sewing Guild @ St Peter's Community Centre
	10am	Said Communion @ St Peter's
	11am	Said Communion @ St Michael's
	11am-2pm	Private Prayers @ St Peter's
	5:30pm	Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
Thu 21 st	2:30-3:30pm	Pray Together @ St Michael's Vicarage, 20 Glassenbury Drive
	5:30pm	Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
	6pm-7pm	Youth Alpha @ St Peter's Community Centre

Fri 22 nd	5:30pm	Stations of the Cross @ St Peter's
Sat 23 rd	10am-noon	Saturday Morning Prayer Station @ St Michael's
Sun 24 th	<u>Palm Sunday</u> 8am 10am 10am 10:30am 11am-2pm 6pm	Said Communion @ St Peter's Sung Eucharist @ St Peter's TFG @ St Peter's Community Centre Sung Holy Communion @ St Michael's Private Prayers @ St Peter's Evensong @ St Peter's
Tue 26 th	9.30am-noon 10am-noon 12:30pm 5:30pm	Crafty Together @ St Peter's Community Centre Coffee Morning @ St Peter's Community Centre Lent Lunch @ St Peter's Community Centre Evening Prayer @ St Peter's
Wed 27 th	9:30am-noon 10am 11am 11am-2pm 8pm	Sewing Guild @ St Peter's Community Centre Said Communion @ St Peter's Said Communion @ St Michael's Private Prayers @ St Peter's Compline @ St Peter's
Thu 28 th	2:30-3:30pm 7:30pm 7:30pm	Pray Together @ St Michael's Vicarage, 20 Glassenbury Drive Said Holy Communion @ St Michael's Sung Eucharist of Last Supper and Watch 'til 10pm @ St Peter's
Fri 29 th	9:30am 10am-noon Noon 1pm-3:30pm 2pm	Walk with the Cross CITB Easter Craft with Egg Hunt @ St Michael's Liturgy @ St Peter's St Peter's Church open for Private Prayers Reflection @ St Michael's
Sat 30 th	<u>Holy Saturday</u> 7:30pm	Sung Eucharist, with Blessing of New Fire @ St Peter's
Sun 31 st	<u>Easter Day</u> 8am 10am 10:30am 11am-2pm 6pm	Said Communion @ St Peter's United Service @ St Peter's Sung Holy Communion @ St Michael's Private Prayers @ St Peter's Evensong @ St Peter's