



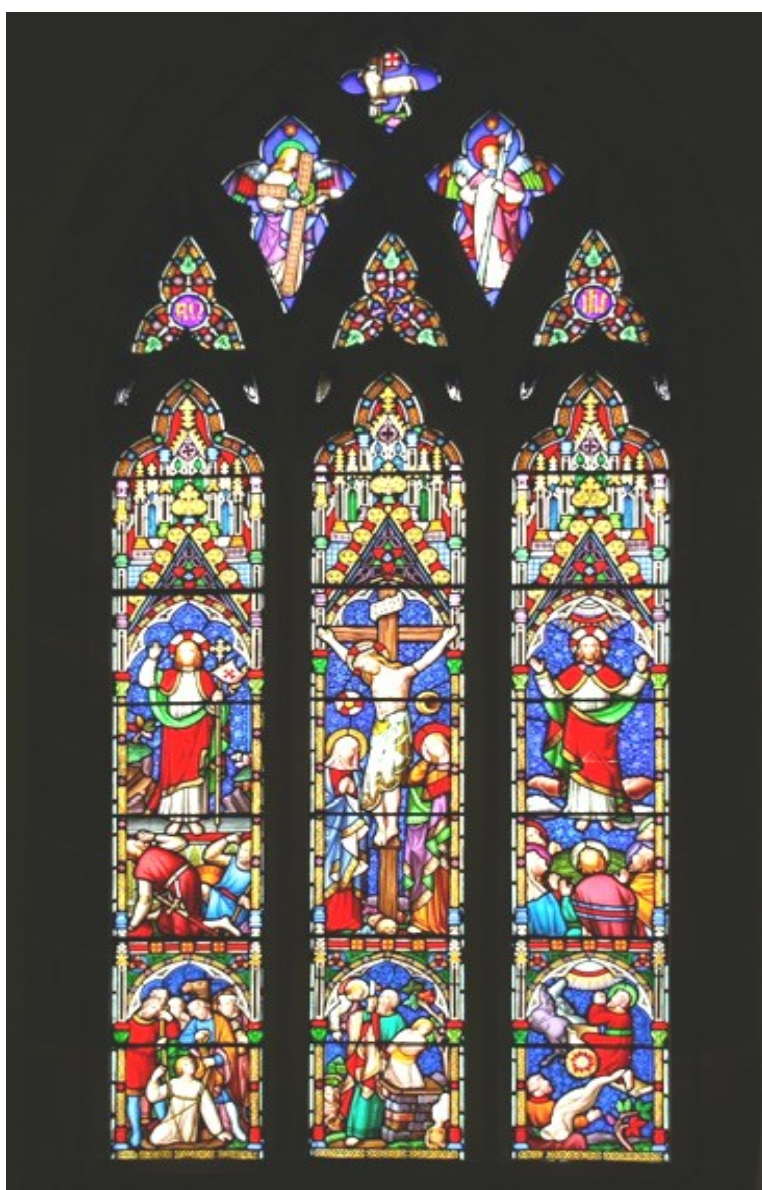
CROSS KEYS



Autumn 2025



Not quite what it seems ...



**Window in
All Saints Church
South Hobart
Tasmania
Australia**

**Turn to Page 10
to read more ...**

**The Magazine of the Parish of St Peter, East Blatchington
October/November 2025 including news and articles from our sister
church, St Andrew's, Bishopstone**



The Rector's letter



It hardly seems possible that two months have passed since I last sat down to write the Rector's letter for Cross Keys. It feels more like two minutes! With summer holidays now fading into distant memory, routines of school and work are once again firmly established for many. There is a distinct autumnal atmosphere as temperatures drop, and leaves gather on the ground.

We have much to be thankful to God for, and we express this gratitude especially at the harvest festival celebrations last weekend at St Peter's Church. Before this we had the Harvest for All service where we had the pleasure of welcoming many people including learners from Seaford Primary School to sing, not to mention the harvest supper, which was enjoyed by all who attended. As we bring our harvest offerings to God, we are reminded that everything we possess is a gift from Him. We are encouraged to hold these gifts loosely, placing our trust in God rather than in our own worldly goods and efforts.

This season also challenges us to remember our Christian responsibility to care for those who are less fortunate, without food and shelter. The pupils of Seaford Primary School modelled this beautifully through their generous gifts of produce, which have now been safely delivered to the food bank.

Yet, amidst our thanksgiving, there is a palpable sense of heaviness and uncertainty in our world. Wars and conflicts rage on, the cost of living continues to rise, and close to home we mourn the tragic death of Joshua Ingram - a young life taken in heartbreaking circumstances, whose funeral is later this month. Our thoughts and prayers are with all affected by this tragic loss.

In observing both our local community and the wider world, it is easy to lose hope and worry about the future. In these moments, I was reminded of the words of Julian of Norwich: "All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." On the surface, Julian's words may seem unrealistic or like a well-meaning platitude, even naïve in today's world. However, reflecting on Mother Julian's life and words reveals this not to be the case. During her lifetime, Norwich suffered the devastating effects of the Black Death (1348–1350), the Peasants' Revolt, and the suppression of the Lollards. She knew darkness and uncertainty too. In 1373, at the age of thirty and gravely ill, Julian received a series of visions of the Passion of Christ. Yet, in the midst of suffering, she wrote those now-famous words and much more about the goodness and constant love of her Lord.

Jesus assures us that our sins are forgiven and that He is with us in times of trial and temptation. His encouragement is not to lose hope but to be a beacon of hope for others, pointing them to Christ. We can be confident that Jesus conquered darkness and death through His resurrection and ascension. Mother Julian's words, therefore, are not a denial of reality but a declaration of faith in Christ. Because of Him, we have real hope that "all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." In this, we stand firm in uncertainty, sharing the message of God's love and grace which endures the storms of life.

As Archbishop Desmond Tutu so memorably said, "Good is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate; light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death. Victory is ours, through him who loves us." These words, too, come from someone who was no stranger to persecution and trial.

Even in these challenging times, the words of Julian of Norwich remain true: "All shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." Wherever you are and however you are feeling as you read this, I pray that you will be strengthened and upheld by God, able to share the light, love, and hope found in Jesus Christ with those around you. Let us give thanks for God's faithfulness and strive to model our lives upon it.

Thank you Nick



Nick Linsell, who has been employed as our gardener for many years, has recently retired and closed his gardening business. To the delight of the PCC he has generously offered to carry on with the work in the churchyard voluntarily; an offer which was gratefully accepted.

In the photo Fr Simon thank Nick for all he has done in the past and will continue to do in the future, keeping our churchyard so beautiful and well-tended and he and Christine, on behalf of the PCC, gave Nick a card and gift as a token of our thanks.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Cross Keys. My thanks go to the other contributors and to our editor, Christine Cooke.

Best wishes,

Fr Simon

Straplines

News bulletins today usually begin with "Good evening" and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

People who have not got a sense of humour should not be put in charge of anything. (*Robert Runcie*)

The only place where success comes before work is in the dictionary.

Some people are born to be great; some achieve greatness; some just grate.

from **ACE Ideas Forum**



Bible Group - Monday 2 pm to 3.30 pm, in Chapel Rooms Hall
Come and join us as we look at Scripture and grow closer in our relationships: with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and with each other, as we see things from each other's point of view. We look back at passages from the previous Sunday's service and ask how they are relevant to ourselves and our times and then we try to apply them to our lives. Please bring your Bible.



Aileen Rickard



Editorial



Thank you to everyone who has contributed articles, photographs, reports and news for this edition of Cross Keys which I think you will find enjoyable and informative. There is the usual wide range of topics, this time taking us from East Blatchington to Tasmania with new information about the Dennis family, a visit to Gaza in 1993, a very interesting priest, a return to a beloved church in Essex and details about how to put oneself or loved ones on the prayer lists, as well as photos and reports of recent events in the parish.

I look forward to receiving your contributions for the December/January edition of the magazine.

The next edition of Cross Keys will be published in early December, so please send in your contributions by 25 November 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

Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy the autumn with not too many storms, as we speed on our way to Christmas.

Christine



Still three months left of the programme at the cathedral to celebrate its 950 years. For details go to the website:

chichestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on-chichester-cathedral

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember in your prayers:

Harry Anderson, Tina Bacon, Devon Baker,
Jeremy Brand, Rev'd Richard Buckingham,
Jennifer Cartwright, Carole Clarke,
Joanne Cooke, Paul Coles, Alan Dempster,
Stephen Dempster, Deanna, The Frostick family,
Katie Gould, Tony, Annifer Hatcher,
Beryl Henley, Gwen Huntley,
Kayleigh Ivers, Christa Lindner, Michael Logan,
Lora, Tom Mangne, June Marshall,
Noellie Montfort,
Wendy Preston, Ralph, Sarah Read, Ann Rix,
Ian Rothery, Ruth, Anne Self,
Felicity Sirc, Valerie Skues,
Colin Tucknott, Hilary Warner.

If you would like your name or that of a relative or friend added to this list, then please let Kay know (kayblackburn@hotmail.com or tel. 01323 870902) or leave a note in the parish prayer book in church.

All the people on this list are prayed for by name in church at Friday's 9.30am Morning Prayer.

IMPORTANT

To see how the Prayers for the Sick lists are to be managed in future, please turn to page 15



Dates for your Diary



- Sun 2 Nov **All Saints**
 St Peter's **Explore Together Eucharist** 10am
 St Andrew's **Sung Eucharist** 10.30am
- Mon 3 Nov St Peter's **All Souls Eucharist** 7pm
- Wed 5 Nov St Andrew's **All Souls Service** 10am
- Sat 8 Nov **Quiz Evening with Lin** 7pm in Chapel Rooms £7 to
 include nibbles and a drink (bring your own wine)
- Sun 9 Nov Remembrance Sunday
- Fri 14 Nov **Concert of Music** organised by Coryn Roberts 7pm in the church.
 Entry free, Retiring collection
- Sun 30 Nov **Advent Sunday**
- Tues Dec 2 **East Blatchington Christmas Lecture on the Italian artist,**
 Pintoricchio by Kay Blackburn 2.30pm in the Chapel Rooms £7

For more details of these events, please see notice boards and the Bulletin

"Bean there again"



At St Peter's we are very fortunate to have a group of dedicated people who prepare and serve coffee after the 10 o'clock service on a rota basis. Being able to sit and chat while drinking an excellent (and affordable!) cup of coffee is, I believe, an important part of the continuing fellowship of the church.

Looking ahead we would like to recruit more volunteers in order to extend the number of people that can be called upon. If you would like to sign up, but are worried about regular commitments (at the moment about once a month) we can always do with more "reserves".

Typically the rota is worked out on a 3 month scheme, shared mainly, but not exclusively, via a dedicated WhatsApp group (part of the St Peter's Community.)

Please contact me to volunteer or just for more information: mariannebarber33@gmail.com

Marianne Barber

Who'd have thought it?

You may have come across a kind of quiz show on radio in which teams are challenged to work out a link between several apparently obscure and unrelated facts. Sounds tortuous, but in the course of the smart alocs unravelling the question you might even learn something you didn't know. Well, in that mood, here's one for you. Only I don't for a minute think you'll get it. No worry, the explanation follows immediately.

What is the connection between a devout Roman Catholic priest who was rejected by his father for something he did to disgrace the family . . . a man who produced a guide to writing popular detective novels . . . and someone who wrote a satire that inspired Orson Welles to follow suit and terrify half of New York?

The answer is Father Ronald Knox, a deeply religious priest who also had a smart sense of humour, and years before Welles' infamous *War of the Worlds* broadcast that caused panic in the streets in parts of America, he helped the BBC to spark a national panic of its own.

Of course, it came in a much more mannered, British way, rather than the somewhat frenetic way of the Americans. This was a 12-minute report of a murderous riot in central London which was to turn out to be a spoof, masterminded by a literary Catholic priest.

It was on January 16, 1926, that Father Ronald Knox, the priest, interrupted an apparently genuine BBC talk on 18th century literature with a report that Big Ben had been toppled by trench mortars. It also mixed what it called band music from the Savoy Hotel with sounds of the hotel's purported destruction, again by trench mortars. It also claimed that the Houses of Parliament had also been destroyed, even that a Government minister might have been lynched.

Because the broadcast happened to be on a snowy weekend when newspaper delivery was unavailable to much of the United Kingdom for several days, the lack of papers caused a minor panic, as people believed that the broadcast events in London were to blame.

You must remember that as a background to this apparent panic, the Russian revolution was then less than a decade old, and our General Strike was already in preparation. In this febrile atmosphere, many took Knox's satire seriously, even besieging the BBC with worried phone calls, and it had to make several announcements later that evening that the programme had been 'a burlesque' but these assurances went largely unheard.

Significantly the main man at the broadcasting corporation, Lord Reith, cared more about reaction from listeners than what the press or Government thought. This was at a time when the BBC's independence was uncertain, and was seen by press as a threat. Of course, in those days people were still getting used to broadcasting, so perhaps they were not yet attuned to the possibility of apparent real-life satire.



Father Knox was born in 1888 and died at 69 in August, 1957. His is quite a story, not just a priest but also theologian, author, and radio broadcaster. He went to Oxford University where he earned a considerable reputation as a classicist and was ordained as a priest in the Church of England. His father, a

vicar, became Bishop of Manchester. But when in 1917 Knox Junior converted to Catholicism and resigned as Anglican chaplain, his furious father cut him out of his will. That was in 1917; next year Knox was ordained a Catholic priest.

It was in 1926 that Knox presented his notorious programme *Broadcasting the Barricades*, a simulated live report of revolution in London, that years later Orson Welles said gave him the idea for his own 1938 CBS Radio dramatisation of "*The War of the Worlds*" that caused such a rumpus in America.

Back to Fr Knox. He became a teacher at Shrewsbury School, and was long remembered as the highly dedicated and entertaining form master of class Vb. Yes, I can believe that. He was recognised by the Pope which allowed him to use the honorific title of "[monsignor](#)".

He was also a busy man and wrote books on religious, philosophical, and literary subjects - and also produced several popular works of detective fiction.

He presented his "Ten Commandments" for detective stories, which said that a detective story must have as its main interest the unravelling of a mystery; a mystery whose elements are clearly presented to the reader at an early stage in the proceedings, and whose nature is such as to arouse curiosity, a curiosity which is gratified at the end.

Hence these ten rules of writing detective fiction, which included: Twin brothers must not appear

unless we have been duly prepared for them. The "sidekick" of the detective, the Dr Watson to Holmes for instance, must not conceal from the reader any thoughts which pass through his mind, and his intelligence must be slightly, but very slightly, below that of the average reader. Also, not more than one secret room or passage is allowable, and no Chinaman must figure in the story (back then lots of stories of used heavily stereotyped Asian characters).

Oh dear. That wrecks the story I was planning. Thanks, Father!

Roger Bing



A few funnies

One Sunday after the morning service the vicar asked his verger, "Do you think I should put more fire into my sermons?" The verger replied, "In my opinion, vicar, you should put more sermons into your fire."

The minister's young son wrote to his aunt to apologise for forgetting her birthday. "I'm ever so sorry," he wrote, "I have no excuse, and it would serve me right if you forgot mine, which is next Tuesday."

The organist at a crematorium had to play for the service of a deceased man who weighed 28 stone. The opening hymn was "How Great Thou Art".

A minister on holiday was reading his hometown newspaper and was stunned to read his own obituary. Shocked and upset, he telephoned the editor to remonstrate. "Just a minute," came the cautious reply. "Where are you calling from?"

from ACE Ideas Forum



Don't forget that clocks go back one hour to GMT on Sunday, 26 October.

Enjoy an hour's lie-in!

Piano and organ lessons

Returning to playing or beginning?

Lessons available with Coryn Roberts,
St Peter's organist.

Contact Coryn on tel: 0773898146 or email: coryn.roberts68@gmail.com





Open air services at St Andrew's



When it comes to outdoor worship at St. Andrew's, it is fortunate that there is a very useful tree in its churchyard as you will see from the photos below, for not only does it provide shade from the sun for the Open Air service in August in memory of 'Those at Rest', but provides shelter from the rain as it did on Sunday 14th September for our Blessing of Pets service.



The annual open air service for those 'At Rest' was held on 10th

August with fine weather. It was pleasing to welcome so many people who had come to remember their loved ones wherever they may be at rest.

After a short service of a hymn, a reading and prayers everyone received a rose and was invited to a cup of tea in the Parish Hall.

A special poem was written for this occasion.

Love Lives On

Those we love remain with us
for love itself lives on,
and cherished memories
never fade because
a loved one's gone.

Those we love can never be
more than a thought apart
for as long as there is memory
they'll live on in the heart.

Anonymous



All creatures great and small ...

For the Blessing of Pets service held on 14 September rain clouds were threatening, but thankfully we were able to stay in the churchyard for the service under the tree. It was encouraging to meet so many owners of dogs, cats, tortoises and terrapins not forgetting the children's toy pets as well.

Thankfully the heavy rain held off until people were well on their way home.

Hilary Norsworthy



Fr Simon and Rev'd Elizabeth bless the pets





Charlie and other dogs at the Blessing of Pets service



All things Bright and Beautiful,

All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord God made them all.
Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colours
He made their tiny wings.



It was a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon. The children and adults who came to St Andrew's, God's Acre and to Bishopstone Parish hall enjoyed the outdoor and the indoor activities.

During August lots of people are away on holiday, as seemed to be the case this year. We hope to welcome more visitors in 2026 by holding our All things Bright & Beautiful event at a different time of the year.

Scaffolding in St Andrew's church tower

Tommy Glenton

Chris Jennings



At the end of August Tommy and Chris sent these photos and wrote, "After months of discussion about the mould in the tower, at last scaffolding is in place and removal has begun".

Hilary reports that the mould has been removed successfully, but the scaffolding remains as other work high up in the tower has been identified by the architect as needing to be done.

Weekly Services at St Andrew's

Sundays

8am Said Holy Eucharist

10.30am Sung Eucharist

(Second Sunday of the month Matins)

First Sunday in the month Sung Evensong - 4pm November to March

Wednesdays

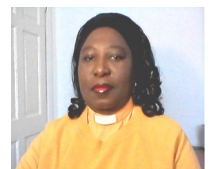
10am Said Eucharist

Saturdays

9am Morning Prayer online with Rev'd Elizabeth

First Wednesday of each month 10am
Wholeness & Healing Eucharist

Last Friday of each month 'Breathing Space'
30 minutes of quiet prayer and contemplation
4pm November to March



Rev'd Elizabeth
Associate Vicar

Reverend Nathaniel Dennis - from East Anglia to East Sussex via Cape Town



The East Window of St Peter's East Blatchington

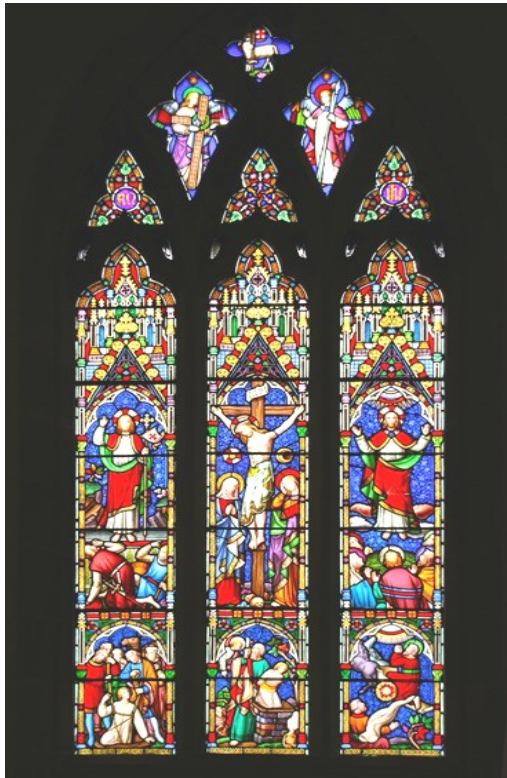
The East window of a parish church is usually the most impressive of the stained glass windows: the focal point of attention when you enter the church. The Victorian memorial window to Rev Nathaniel Dennis at the East end of St. Peter's Church is no exception. The colours of its six "lights" are bright and bold (with colour names such as "bright red" and "arsenic green".) Two of the subjects are those traditionally chosen from the New Testament for an East window - ie Crucifixion and Resurrection. Here the third subject is the entombment of Christ. Two of the smaller "stages" underneath show the Old Testament story of Joseph thrown into a well by his brothers and subsequently taken out again. The centre small panel depicts the sacrificing of Isaac by his father, Abraham, with the lamb in the thicket. The particular dedication of the window is clear to see along the lower edge: a young widow, Ann (Nathaniel's second wife) paying tribute to her husband in 1860, a year after his death.

You might assume from the prominence and size of the window, as well as its position in the church, that the Reverend Nathaniel was the Rector. In fact he was the Curate to his son, Robert, who was the Rector. Nathaniel was baptised in 1784 at Kelvedon in Essex. After attending Corpus Christi, Cambridge, he was ordained Deacon of Rayden and Southwold in September 1807 by Bishop Henry Bathurst, the

then Bishop of Norwich, and was awarded a salary of £63 pa. In 1815 he married Mary Ann, daughter of Philip and Permelia Townsend at St Margaret's, Westminster. A year later, in June 1816, he was commissioned as Armed Forces Chaplain, resident at the Cape of Good Hope (after the reforms of 1810, Army chaplains were obliged to go overseas with their regiments.) From my researches into Maria Fehrsen, we know that Robert Dennis was born at the Cape in 1817 and both of them were baptised by Nathaniel. The Dennis family returned to England in 1822, only to follow another posting, this time to Portugal, where we find Nathaniel in 1827. It is possible that he had completed by then the 12 years overseas service necessary to secure him an army pension of 4 shillings "per diem", as established by Royal Decree of 1796. (By my rough calculation, that would have equated to £11,000 pa in today's money.) But it looks like Robert's mother, Mary Ann died in 1828. Robert would have been 11 years old. Nathaniel did eventually remarry, in 1841, at the age of 57. His second wife, Ann Herbert, was 21 (i.e. younger than her step-son.) They were married for 18 years. I'm not certain when Nathaniel became curate at St Peter's, but Robert was appointed Rector in 1844 so some time around then. Nathaniel officiated at the marriage of Robert to Elizabeth, the heiress to the King family estate, in 1854 (incidentally Elizabeth was 40 and Robert 37, so possibly not the young romance portrayed elsewhere). When the newly-weds moved into the manor house, Nathaniel and Ann took over the vicarage until Nathaniel's death in 1859. I'm guessing it was convenient to have the curate living so near the church!

Nathaniel's history is an interesting one, but the window itself has a story. It is attributed, on grounds of style to one of my favourite Victorian stained glass makers, William Wailes. Although not signed, there are three elements which help to identify the window as by Wailes: (1) the particular colours used (2) the red and white halo of Jesus (3) the open-topped number "8" in the date. However, in one of my internet trawls I bumped into some corroboration based not on style but on subject, surprisingly on the other side of the world – specifically Tasmania!

I found on a weblog belonging to researcher Ray Brown,
<https://stainedglassaustralia.wordpress.com/>,
 photos of a window in All Saints Church, South Hobart, Tasmania.



The All Saints window has obvious similarities to ours, and when I contacted Ray he not only confirmed this but also pointed me to a third window in the same vein in St Laurence Church, Chorley, dated 1861. Examining the two photos (our window and All Saints) note the depiction of Joseph



emerging from the well and the details in the scene with Isaac. Note also the camel in the background! The only significant subject difference is the

representation of Elijah going up to heaven in a flaming chariot in the bottom right-hand panel of both the Chorley and the South Hobart windows.

Until recently the Tasmanian window was attributed to the Australian firm of Ferguson and Urie (Ray is James Ferguson's 3x great grandson.) However, Ray has uncovered an article in the Hobart Town Advertiser, dated 1862, which states unequivocally that the glass in the East window is "from the manufactory of Wailes of Newcastle and is decidedly the best specimen of this beautiful art we have yet had the pleasure of seeing in the colony..." This was less than two years after the window at East Blatchington was installed.

William Wailes began his working life as a tea merchant and grocer in Gateshead, but with a keen interest in painting. Initially he set up a kiln in his back yard to make decorative enamels. He progressed to a separate workshop making stained glass in 1841, having taken himself off to Germany to learn the art. For a while he produced stained glass for Augustus Pugin, who was always on the look-out for new young talent (he could pay them less than an established artist!) Eventually William broke free from Pugin and became so successful, ultimately with 76 employees, that he was among the 25 glass-makers exhibiting at The Great Exhibition in 1851. Perhaps his most ambitious work was the large West window of Gloucester Cathedral.

In 1861 he embarked on a fantastical building project, designing and building a family house, part Gothic castle, part Tudor mansion, surrounded by an ornamental park – "Saltwell" - which over time drained much of his funds. When he eventually ran out of money he sold both the park and the mansion for £35,000 to Gateshead Corporation as a public park, but with the condition he and his family could stay in the house for the remainder of his life. The park opened to the public in 1876 as "The People's Park" and is still open today, now described in the wedding brochure as a "fairy-tale mansion at the heart of Gateshead's finest Victorian park." William is still well-remembered in Gateshead. By all accounts he was a hard-working man who followed his dream and took care of his extended family; a compassionate employer and also something of a philanthropist.¹

With regards to the commissioning of our memorial window, I have a suspicion that Robert Dennis may have contributed to the cost. It coincided with much restoration work to the church which he initiated. We can also assume that he and Elizabeth had no children (none found in the census) hence possibly more disposable income. Robert retired to Devon in 1880 and became well-known as a natural historian until his death in 1892. Either way, we are ultimately the beneficiaries of such a well-connected, but more importantly, glorifying window.

Marianne Barber

Photo of "Crucifixion window", All Saints, South Hobart reproduced with the kind permission of Ray Brown

¹ <https://northumberlandarchives.com/2018/05/08/william-wailes-visionary-creator-artist/>

Into the house of the Lord

‘I was glad when they said to me
Let us go into the house of the Lord’ (Psalm 122, Verse 1)



All Saints, Stock Harvard,
Essex

Keith and I were recently invited to the Flower Festival at the church of All Saints Stock Harvard and I was asked to preach and began with this quotation especially as this is how I felt going back to Essex and where we met so many friends and families we had known. It was an honour and privilege. The psalm raised the question,

‘Why do we go into the house of the Lord?’

What is it about churches that draw us to them in times of celebration, in times of sadness, and at times when we are searching for answers in this troubled world?

Although life has certainly changed since we left Essex and came to East Sussex, not so much had changed at All Saints: beautiful stained glass windows, uplifting music, a gifted choir and Anglo - Catholic liturgy which, as you all know, focuses on the presence of Christ in the reserved sacrament, prayers and music as well as friendly faces.

All this is what Keith and I appreciate here too at St Peter’s where, from the moment we joined the congregation here, we felt at home. Churches like ours are special in that the reserved sacrament is always present in the Aumbry. This is the real presence of Christ Jesus in the consecrated sacrament, Jesus whose teaching is about the nature of love, the purpose of life and the reassurance of heaven. One of our St Peter’s children said, quite a few years ago: that the rays of the sun through the south window, enhanced by clouds of incense, are angel rays - a glimpse of heaven.

Over the years I have come to appreciate the psalms more and more, for example, Psalm 122 verse 8 ‘Peace be with you’. I have come to really appreciate the beauty, poetry and depth of the psalms.

So why is going to church so important? Let’s be honest, church life can be difficult. There will always be debates and disagreements, but we are so lucky to have discovered over the years, the importance of dignified and focused worship, which we have here at St Peter’s, where we are also encouraged to reach out into the community, working with other churches, learning from each other’s ways, to see how our faith can be strengthened in spite of the challenges: people are living longer, more families are facing challenges, of lack of money and the benefits and difficulties of the digital world. For example, I think here at St Peter’s we reach out in important modern ways but still using ancient text and reading psalms and helping those who are housebound with home communion as well as those of us who are lucky enough to be able to come to church. I love using the Book of Common Prayer and the Nunc Dimittis in night prayer (Compline) when the response is ‘Save us O Lord while waking and guard us while sleeping that awake, we may watch with Christ and asleep, we may rest in peace. What a good way to end the day!’

Many of you will already know the final prayer in Compline, which we say together with those present and those online:

‘The Lord bless us and watch over us.

The Lord make his face to shine upon us and be gracious to us.

The Lord look kindly on us and give us peace. Amen’



As you know, I always like to include an image in my articles and here is one new to me but on the window shelf in the sanctuary at All Saints Stock - the subject is ‘Jesus as the Good Shepherd’ and I hope I can write a piece about this idea in the

next Cross Keys. Note the tender look of Christ in the sculpture and how He tenderly embraces the lamb.

Photo - image
from a postcard -
use of it credited to
Rev’d Steven Need



Kay Blackburn

A Message and a true story

Family Support Work is very grateful to share, with the local Foodbank, our harvest gifts. This food helps to feed our families over the winter months when it often comes down to a choice of “heat or eat”.

Below is a case study, which is unfortunately not unusual for our practitioners to handle these days. If anyone can offer any items to help furnish a property when this family receives one, I will liaise to ensure that they receive them.

Sylvia Aston



The impact of your support

*Sue's family consists of six children, aged between 2 and 13 years. The three older children are not biologically related to Sue but she took them under her wing after they were removed from their biological mother due to her struggles with drug addiction.

FSW began supporting Sue two years ago when the family was evicted from their privately rented home after the landlord decided to sell the property. At that time, Sue and the father of her biological children were still together, but their relationship has since broken down, leaving Sue to care for all six children on her own. Over the past two years, the family has moved through various temporary accommodations and is currently living in a hotel with just two rooms and limited cooking facilities. Sue feels unsafe in this environment due to concerns about some of the other residents, which adds to her overall stress.

To manage meals, the family relies on a food delivery service from FSW, which is sent to a friend's house where Sue takes the children every day to prepare their meals.

Despite these challenges, the family remains hopeful about moving into a new Housing Association property soon. However, they currently have no furniture, not even beds to sleep in, no kitchen equipment, no fridge or washing machine. Efforts are underway to secure funding for these essential items to help Sue and the children settle into their new home.

The ongoing stress of these circumstances is taking a toll on Sue's mental health and the children, particularly the younger ones, are themselves also suffering anxiety, having never known a stable home environment. Our continuing support eases some of this pressure and is helping Sue and her family transition to a more secure and stable living situation.

** Name has been changed to protect family identity.*

Some of the lovely flower arrangements for Harvest done by Daphne Dempster and friends



Letter from Gaza

In May 1993 I was granted a month's sabbatical and went to Israel for 'The Bible and its Setting' course at St George's College in Jerusalem. There was a large group of seminarians from Virginia. Five of us were from the UK. We visited sites around Jerusalem and Bethlehem and travelled for overnight stays in Galilee and Egypt, sleeping one night under the stars near the Red Sea.

One day, 26th May, was left open for a special trip. At the last minute we were granted permission to visit the Gaza Strip. This is my account of the day, written in a letter to Anne and my children back home near Norwich.

'6am breakfast. 7am leave for Gaza, travelling along the roads built for the new settlers and their shiny new settlements, out towards Tel Aviv and passed a Peace Project, the roads empty as it was a Jewish festival. At Ashkelon we turned south and reached the border to the territory about 9am.

The coach driver was a bit cagey as we approached with armed guards and sentry towers around. We drove through to an untidy filling station where five minibuses awaited. We were told to transfer quickly. We stopped by the sand dunes and were told that the Palestinians were nervous as this was the biggest group they had handled. We split into two groups, one visiting Jabaliya refugee camp, the other to the Beach camp. Those who went to Jabaliya visited a Bedouin family and the father of an 18 month old child shot by soldiers a few weeks ago. I went to the Beach camp and we stayed in our minibuses the whole time, bumping along appalling roads. The scene was the most pathetic I have ever seen, donkeys pulled little carts, men dug ditches (there is 70% unemployment), the houses made of corrugated iron and concrete blocks. The people, though not starving, are trapped and have nowhere to go.

In Gaza Strip live 800,000 people, 550,000 are refugees. Egypt does not want them back and Israel does not want to keep them. Raw sewage goes down the gravel road from a burst water main, down to the sea, into the Mediterranean. After 45 mins of this emotional, heart-rending pounding we got to the slightly superior roads of Gaza Town (once very beautiful) and to a centre run by the WCC (the World Council of Churches), training young Palestinians as

secretaries, dressmakers and English speakers. I became the centre of attention when I showed them photos of you, Matt and Sarah (aged 7 and 4).

We listened to a Gazan civil rights lawyer who explained that he is still 'an undefined person', his family having lived in Gaza for 600 years, whilst a Russian Jew arriving today has full status. We met some of the secretarial girls after lunch, and I talked to Sammy (27), all his life in Gaza. He had been to Jerusalem once and spent 3½ years in underground prisons in the Negev (desert).

Then we sped to Ahli-Arab Hospital, an Anglican hospital in Gaza Town. We met Suhail Tarazi, the hospital's director who has been in post for eleven years. We were shown the old but well-kept buildings (a new extension is planned) and had a long chat with Kamal, a young diabetic hospital technician who was shot in the knee a few weeks ago and is being refused permission to go to Jerusalem for surgery – but what a cheerful and wonderful person!



Tear gas cylinders, some with Made in USA on them, fired into the hospital by Israeli soldiers

Soon it was time to leave this chaotic tumble of a town, tourists gaping at goldfish bowls. The traffic was amazing, the driving incredible and made it back to our coach, shaken but inspired. We were all shocked, numbed, silent.

The Americans took it badly, especially those who had been in military service (Vietnam).

The next day was Ascension Day.'

The Ahli Arab Hospital is an 80-bed hospital built 1882 by the Church Missionary Society and is the only Christian hospital in Gaza. It was bought in 1954 by the Southern Baptists (hence why it is still called 'Baptist') and transferred back to CMS in 1982 who passed it on to the Diocese of Jerusalem. After over 40 years, it is still known in the press as the Baptist Hospital.



Anne & the children in 1993



Kamal

It has been Gaza's only cancer hospital – until a week after the Hamas attack on Israel on 7th October 2023, when two floors of the cancer treatment centre were destroyed by the IDF. A few days later a massive explosion occurred in the hospital's courtyard where many families were sheltering. Both the IDF and a stray Hamas rocket have been blamed for the tragedy which killed 471 people and injured a further 342.



Last year the hospital opened a mobile outpatients' clinic to the south of Gaza near Khan Younis. If you want to help the hospital, please give via Embrace the Middle East or JMECA. Apart from praying and pleading with God, that is the only way we can help.



Chris Collison

Photos at the hospital in Gaza by Peter Ballantine who went on the trip to Israel with Fr Chris in 1993

Intercessions: St. Peter's Parish Prayer Lists

For several months, there have been ongoing discussions about how best to pray by name for those who are unwell, those who have recently died, and to remember and honour the anniversaries of loved ones who are no longer with us.

To support these intentions, I have tried to develop a more structured approach to parish prayer lists. This update provides information about the different prayer lists available, the process for adding names, and details on when individuals will be remembered by name.

For those who are unwell, there are now two main prayer lists in the parish: the Acute List and the Longer-Term List. Please note that in order to add names to these lists, it is essential to have the permission of the individual concerned or that of their partner, sibling, or closest relation, as appropriate.

The Acute List is intended for those experiencing urgent or acute need, especially individuals who are in hospital or unable to attend church. If you or a friend or family member would like to be added to this list, please contact Neville Chalkley (bulletinstpeters2015@gmail.com or 01323 891921). Names added to the Acute List will appear in the weekly bulletin and remain on the list for three weeks before being removed. Should prayer still be required after this period, please reach out to Neville again for the name to be reinstated. Those on the Acute List will be remembered by name during Monday Morning Prayer and on occasion during the 10am Sunday Eucharist. These changes will begin in the weekly bulletin for the weekend of the 11/12th October.

Neville also manages the lists for the recently departed and years minds. Those whose names are on these two lists are prayed for by name during Monday Morning Prayer and usually at the 10am Sunday Eucharist. If the person attended a specific service, they may also be remembered by name at that service. At the 8am Eucharist, a general intercession is prayed and so prayer for many people by name is not the norm.

The Longer-Term List is managed by Kay Blackburn. If you wish to add yourself, a family member, or a friend with ongoing needs, please contact Kay (kayblackburn@hotmail.com or 01323 870902). This list is published bi-monthly in the Cross Keys magazine and included in the monthly prayer diary. Names on this list are prayed for by name on Friday mornings during Morning Prayer.

With prayers and best wishes,

Fr Simon



Holding the silence

Two years ago my wife Diana was talking to Rev'd Arwen and she mentioned that I did not come to church because I was a Quaker and attended meetings on Sunday mornings. Arwen asked if I might like to come to the silent half-hours on Monday evenings, then known as Breathing Space. I went one Monday, was welcomed into the group, and I have attended almost every week since then.



The pattern is that there is a short reading, followed by half an hour of silence, and a closing prayer. For some people that might seem to be a waste of time, or too difficult and challenging, but for some people it is very valuable. Silence is important in many religions. In Christianity it is found especially in monastic orders, but it is also a valuable practice in the busy lives of ordinary people – and sometimes it is the busiest people who need it most. It can be used for meditation, contemplation, prayer or just an opportunity to completely let go. It is there for everyone to use in their own way, but in a mysterious way it is also a group experience.

The numbers attending are very small, and I think that many more might find something valuable if they tried it.

David Hitchin

MONTHLY COMMUNITY LUNCH

You are invited to a lunch on the last Friday of every month

**12.30-2pm in St Peter's Chapel Rooms,
Belgrave Road**

**Next lunches on 31st October
& 28th November**

December's date to be announced



Booking with dietary requests via the
Benefice Office, please: 899054
email: officeebb.benefice@gmail.com

Groups

THE ART GROUP



Bring along your own creative projects
(all types of media welcome)
and work on them within our creative social group.
Tea and cake and friendly chat.
We meet in the main St Peter's Church Hall
Thursday mornings at 10-12pm

Ring Kay 01323 870902 for more info

Forget-Me-KNOT Memory Cafe

10.30am until 12.00 noon Chapel
Rooms, St Peter's East Blatchington

A Place for those experiencing memory
loss and their carers offering a safe space
conversation, tea and cake.



01323 899054



www.ebbchurches.org.uk/memory-cafe



St Peter's Church
East Blatchington, Seaford

LIGHTHOUSE



OUR GROUP FOR 11 - 18 YEAR OLDS MEETS ONCE A
MONTH EVERY MONTH
A FUN AND FRIENDLY FAITH LED GROUP FOR
FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, FUN AND FOOD

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE WHATSAPP GROUP AND
FIND OUT WHERE WE WILL BE NEXT.

OR EMAIL ANNEXPLORE@BTINTERNET.COM
OR CALL ON 07774003878

St. Andrew's
Bishopstone

St Peter's Church
East Blatchington, Seaford

Treasure Hunters

the new name for our Children's Group



Join our WhatsApp Group
using the QRcode above

Xplore & Treasure Hunters are aimed at Primary (3-11 years) aged children &
their families - All children to be accompanied by an adult please.

A Sunday afternoon of crafts, and activities around a bible story with fruit
and cake refreshments 3pm to 4.30pm



Sun 21st September - Treasure Hunters

Sun 16th November - Treasure Hunters



EAST BLATCHINGTON CROCHET CIRCLE



A lovely friendly crochet group,
for those who are experienced,
just beginning or inbetween!
Upstairs in the St Peter's Chapel Rooms
Monday evenings at 7-8.30pm.



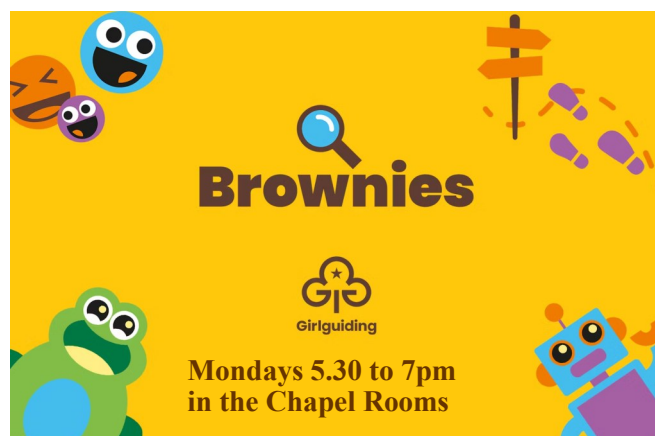
Scan the QR code for our Facebook Group
or ring Linda 07747 533064 for more info

Brownies



Girlguiding

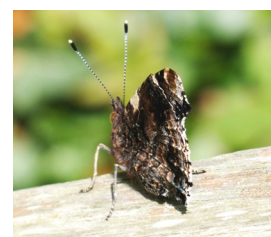
Mondays 5.30 to 7pm
in the Chapel Rooms



Here is the link to Diana Hitchin's slide show of the Churchyard in
September:

<https://youtu.be/CpspVDtYeRk>

Diana writes, I've just finished creating the
September slideshow and again am amazed at what I find out there!
The Fritillary Butterfly was unusual, and I still don't have a proper
identification for it!



St Peter's at prayer in October & November

Weekend Services

Saturday 9am Morning prayer with Rev'd Elizabeth (online on Facebook Live only)

5.30pm Parish Eucharist (1st Saturday of the month - Wholeness and Healing Service, 3rd Saturday - Taizé Mass)

Sunday 8am Holy Communion BCP

10am Parish Eucharist CW This service is live-streamed on YouTube and on Facebook which can be accessed through our website:-
www.ebbchurches.org.uk

Sunday 6pm (4pm from Nov to March) Evening Prayer BCP (not 1st Sunday in the month when there is Evensong at St Andrew's)

Weekday Services

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

9,30am Morning Prayer also on *Facebook Live*

Wednesday 10.30am Midweek Eucharist

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8pm Compline (online only)

These weekday services are streamed live at **www.facebook.com/StPetersEB**



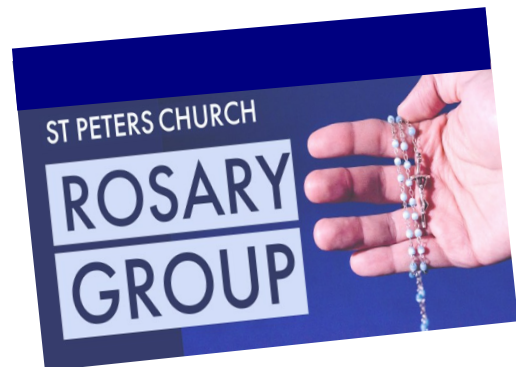
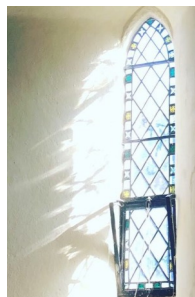
'HOLDING THE SILENCE'

our silent prayer meeting,
takes place in the church and
online ... on Zoom

5.30 to 6pm every Monday

You are invited to come and keep this
space of contemplation and peace
within our complicated and busy world.

**The Zoom link is available from our
website, www.ebbchurches.org.uk**



This group meets in the church every 2nd and
4th Tuesday afternoon at 2pm.

Meeting ID: 851 6436 0499 Passcode: letmein

New people are welcome to join the group.
Curious? Just come along.

PARISH PRAYER DIARY

Our monthly prayer diary is available on the church website – www.ebbchurches.org.uk Printed copies are available in the church porch. This is 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, diocese-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, names of individuals and groups who work and worship at St Peter's and the names of those who are sick and have asked for our prayers.

If you would like a copy sent to you individually by email, please let Tash Tansley know.

tel: 01323 899054 email: officeebb.benefice@gmail.com



St Peter's Church

East Blatchington, Seaford

Open hearted, Open minded, Open to God, Open to all every day

RECTOR *Rev'd Simon Earnshaw 01323 555026 / 07596 485157*

email: simonjearnshaw@outlook.com

ASSOCIATE VICAR *Rev'd Elizabeth Jinks 07902 715423 email: associatevicarebb@gmail.com*

HONORARY ASSISTANT PRIESTS *Fr Eric Pollard 492312, Fr John Harrington 351816,
Fr Chris Collison 07931 646745*

CHURCHWARDENS *Anne Collison 892364 email: annexplore@btinternet.com
07774 003878*

Neville Chalkley 891921 email: neville.chalkley@btinternet.com

SAFEGUARDING OFFICER *Zena Maher 07739 984449*

email: safeguardingsaintpeters@gmail.com

BENEFICE ADMINISTRATOR *Natasha Tansley 899054 email: officeebb.benefice@gmail.com*

Website: www.ebbchurches.org.uk

Twitter: www.twitter.com/StPetersEastB **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/StPetersEB

Wedding, Baptism and Funeral enquiries: *contact the Rector 01323 555026 / 07596 485157*

Pastoral care: To request prayer and seek any other support, spiritual or practical, please contact *Kay Blackburn, Pastoral Care Co-ordinator 870902 kayblackburn@hotmail.com*

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

The church is open every day for **private prayer from** 10am Monday to Saturday,
12pm Sunday until 6pm (4pm from Nov. to March).

Details of all services in church and online are on page 18.

PCC SECRETARY: *Christine Cooke 490548 email: pccstpeters@gmail.com*

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

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME: *Elizabeth Pay 894799 email: elizabeth.pay@btinternet.com*

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER: *Debbie Phipps email: dehipps1985@gmail.com*

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

HALL BOOKINGS: *online: <https://www.ebbchurches.org.uk/chapel-rooms>*

Enquiries: contact the benefice office, 899054 email: officeebb.benefice@gmail.com

HOMELINK help for the homeless: vacant

WEEKLY BULLETIN: *Neville Chalkley 891921 email: bulletinstpeters2015@gmail.com*

ART and CRAFT GROUP: *Kay Blackburn 870902*

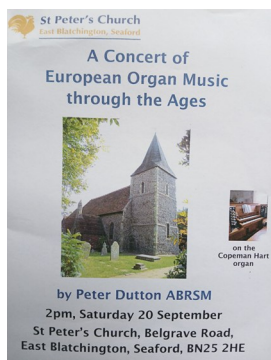
St Peter's reg. charity no.: 1173506

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

This Cross Keys can be viewed on the benefice website:- www.ebbchurches.org.uk

Recent events in the parish and a prayer



An excellent, very enjoyable recital by Peter Dutton of European organ music through the ages, took place in September.



It was arranged and generously sponsored by David Hitchin who wrote afterwards, *'I began by drafting a programme and then asked if there was any member of the Brighton and District Organists Association who would be willing to perform it. I had only two replies. One said that it was unlikely that anyone would be willing to play so many unfamiliar pieces and the other was Peter Dutton who said it would be a challenge and that he could learn them in his summer holidays. He spent 6 hours learning the music.'*

Thank you, David and Peter

£180 was raised for St Peter's



Tina Bacon's Open Garden



The event raised £325. Thank you, Tina, for opening your lovely garden.



The first meeting of our newly renamed **'Treasure Hunters'** group for children aged 3 to 11.

The children made treasure boxes.



A Prayer for Remembrance Sunday

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

Peace-loving God,
on this Remembrance Sunday,
Your church remembers
all who have fallen in war;
those who re-live war daily through injury or broken spirit,
those left behind, grieving for a loved one.
And as we remember,
we pray for those who seek peace:
for those who are good negotiators –
working with dedication and persistence;
going the extra mile for peace.
We pray for peace.
But also...
help us to find new ways of addressing aggression;
constructive ways of challenging harsh regimes,
seeking justice as well as peace.

Martin Hazell (from Opening Doors, URC 2014 Prayer Handbook)

Prayer from ACE Ideas Forum

Take care, keep warm and stay safe.