



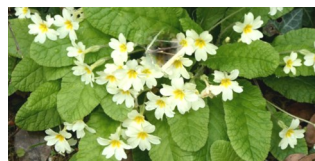
# CROSS KEYS



**Welcome to Spring 2024**



Flowers in bloom in the churchyard



**The Magazine of the Parish of St Peter, East Blatchington April/May 2024 including news from our sister church, St Andrew's, Bishopstone**



## Rector's letter

In contrast to Christmas, Easter films aren't really a thing, are they? The big companies have tried, just think of 'Hop' and 'The Easter

Bunny Adventure'. You don't know them? Well that just proves my point! However, my father introduced me to a film that I now watch every Easter, and I do recommend that you do too. The name of it is 'Risen' and although the costume and period is depicted in a similar way to Mel Gibson's 'The Passion', the tone is very different. Where Gibson set out to prove the gritty and brutal reality of Christ's crucifixion, Kenneth Reynolds' 'Risen' has a very different goal in mind. If you have a strong stomach you might first watch 'The Passion' followed by 'Risen' as they could easily be part of a set piece. The second film is equal to Gibson's in its ability to capture this tone, but where 'The Passion' leaves you hollow, 'Risen' brings you to a very different, more hopeful place.

Doing exactly what is written on the tin, 'Risen' focuses on the resurrection of Christ within the context of an historical drama and it manages to depict the surprise, shock, disbelief, and awe of first century Palestinians, disciples and others, as they encounter the Risen Christ among them. The staggering sense of surprise at God's miraculous action, takes the characters from the disbelief of grief and shows beautifully how their minds are absolutely blown at what God has instead chosen to do. Having prepared themselves for mourning, grief and the rebuilding of their lives, they become inspired, surprised and enlightened.

I wonder how you are feeling this Easter? Are you feeling surprised by God? I recall watching one of my guilty-watch-reality-programmes about a rather famous American family of brunettes. As one of the siblings encounters something unexpected in her life, she boldly says 'If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans'. I often recall this phrase, when a day goes awry, when something unexpected takes up my time, or when God newly reveals his plan and purpose.

Such things can be discombobulating, but they are also exciting. In these days after Easter as we walk alongside the disciples and the people of first century Palestine, imagine the discombobulation and excitement that the disciples would have experienced. Devastation was taken by God and turned into something awesome, life giving, and hopeful.

It is interesting to remember from watching 'Risen' that the presence of God isn't always comfortable. Life going well and nicely isn't the only sign that God is present. Sometimes the Spirit works hardest within us precisely when things feel unsettled and up in the air. Such times crack open the earth, just as we turn to earth to lay new seeds, and so often what follows reveals the full mystery, presence and truth of God.

Let me end by sharing this beautiful Easter prayer with you all:

*O Lord,  
You who startled the disciples with your  
resurrected presence,  
Startle us out of our own overfamiliarity with the  
gospel,  
So that the good news of your risen life might  
become  
Weird and wonderful again to us this day.  
Give us peace as you startle us,  
Give us hope as you surprise us,  
Give us grace as you gaze upon us.  
In your name we pray.  
Amen.*

\*You can find 'Risen' on Amazon Prime Video

God bless you all,

**Arwen**

**Rev'd Arwen Folkes** Rector of St Peter's, East Blatchington & St Andrew's, Bishopstone

The Rectory, 86 Belgrave Road,  
East Blatchington, Seaford, BN25 2HE  
Tel:- 01323 892964  
Email:- [rector@ebbchurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@ebbchurches.org.uk)

# Dates for your diary

Thurs 18 April East Blatchington Lecture **'A Bluffer's Guide to Cinema'** by Ian Perry 2.30pm in Chapel Rooms £7

Thurs 18 April Concert by **'The Gospelish Choir'** 7.30pm in St Peter's Church £7

Sat 27 April **'My Musical Travels'** with Dame Felicity Lott 7pm £15

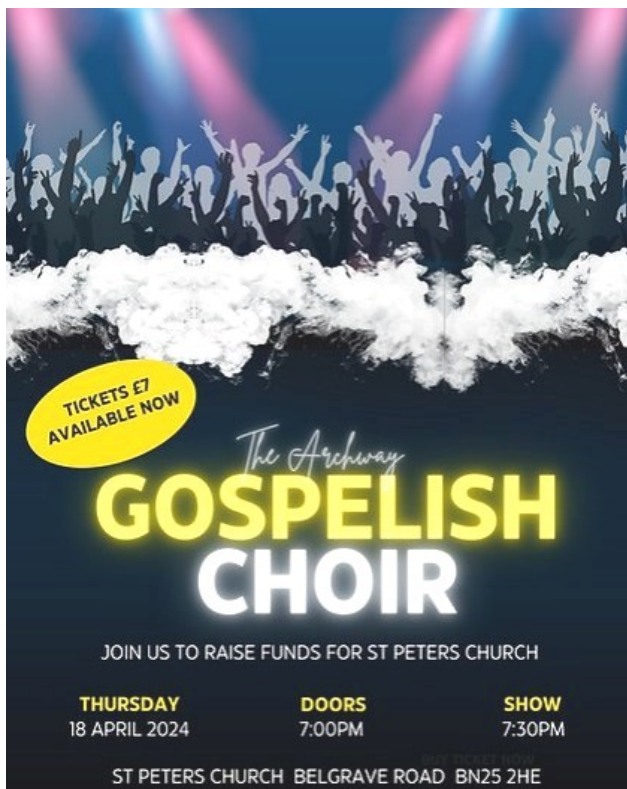
Sun 28 April **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** in church 11.30am approx. after the 10am Parish Eucharist

Sun 19 May **Pentecost**

Sat 25 May **Bishopstone Summer Fayre** 12 to 4.30pm

Thurs 30 May East Blatchington Lecture **'Chailey Heritage'** by a staff member 2.30pm in Chapel Rooms £7

Please keep an eye on the Bulletin or website for details of additional events



## East Blatchington Lectures '24

18 April **'A Bluffer's Guide to Cinema'** by Ian Perry *After a look at the creation of cinema there will be an eclectic mix of clips from the 1890's through silent films, classic Hollywood and British movies to more recent films, including the works of Hitchcock, Orson Wells and Spielberg.*

30 May **'Chailey Heritage'** by a staff member *Find out what Chailey Heritage does, learn about its history and hear about the amazing young people who today access its services.*

Both on Thursdays at 2.30pm

in St Peter's Chapel Rooms

Belgrave Road, Seaford, BN25 2HE

Tickets £7 including light refreshments

Please book via the Benefice Office & pay at the door ...

Tel: 01323 899054 (leave a message if no reply)

Email: [officeebb.benefice@gmail.com](mailto:officeebb.benefice@gmail.com)

# Editorial



Thank you to all who have written articles, sent in photographs and provided information on a wide range of topics for this spring edition of Cross Keys. I hope you find it an interesting and enjoyable read. It is good to have some new contributors this time, joining our regular ones - welcome!

'Help needed, please' is a recurring plea for the many activities and events taking place this year, (see page 6 for how to help with St Peter's Summer Festival and page 16 for how to get involved with the Diocese's plans for the exhibition to celebrate 950 years of Chichester Cathedral in 2025). Please volunteer.

Our social and fundraising programme has come together well with events for all tastes. I hope to see many of you at the East Blatchington Lectures, the Open Gardens and the Concerts.

If you have any suggestions for new features in Cross Keys, please let me know.

I look forward to receiving your contributions for the June/July edition of the magazine.

*The next edition of Cross Keys will be published in early June so please send in your contributions by 25 May 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**

Christine



## Prayers for the Sick

*Please remember in your prayers:*

Brian Adams, Devon Baker,  
Rev'd Richard Buckingham, Jennifer Cartwright,  
Paul Coles, Alan Dempster, Stephen Dempster,  
Deanna, Katie Gould, Gwen Huntley,  
June Marshall, Tony, Noellie Montfort,  
Barbara Prendergast, Wendy Preston,  
Anne Self, Felicity Sirc,  
Colin Tucknott, Tina Bacon,  
Peter Thompson, Hilary Warner,  
Jeremy Brand, Joanne Cooke, Beryl Henley,  
Annifer Hatcher, Sarah Read,  
Harry Anderson, Pam Taggart, Kayleigh Ivers,  
Ann Rix, Carole Tidy, Christa Lindner,  
Joseph Murphy, Ian Rothery,  
Ruth, Valerie Skues,  
Leo (Mum) and Baby Felix.



## Thank you St Peter's

I wish to thank all concerned for the online services. It is a wonderful facility and a real Godsend, quite literally, to those who cannot get to Church. The numbers viewing are testament to the popularity of this service.

My friend Francis Benham has recently been on our prayer list at my request. He is very appreciative and wishes to thank the parish for their prayers. He is currently in remission and feeling well.

Another friend, Margaret Spooner, has been on our prayer list for a short while as she has cancer. When I suggested to her that she be added to our prayer list, she wept that anybody should care enough to pray for her! She is still very poorly, but appreciative and again emotional that we should continue to pray for her.

I think Saint Peter's is doing a pretty good job! Once again, thank you to everybody.

**Beryl Henley**

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

All the people on this list and those named in the weekly Bulletin are prayed for by name in church at the 8am Sunday Holy Communion service, at Monday's Morning Prayer and at Wednesday's 10.30am Mass.



# SEASONS AND FESTIVALS

## SATURDAY 29TH

## AND SUNDAY 30TH JUNE 2024



Following the success of last year's Festival of Colour, we are holding another similar event at Petertide.

Over the weekend of Petertide we will have a celebration of the seasons and festivals in the year, starting with Epiphany and working through the year back to Advent and Christmas. The festivals will be represented in beautiful flower displays in the church.

In the Chapel Rooms, churchyard and car park refreshments will be served and on Saturday there will be stalls to include cakes, plants, Tombola and Raffle.

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June the event will run from 12 noon to 4pm, ending with a Songs of Praise at 4.30pm. On the Sunday the event will run from 2pm to 4pm with refreshments only, no stalls.

During both days we will need help with stewarding in the church and in the chapel rooms. Help will also be required with the refreshments and running the stalls. During May rotas will appear at the back of the church for you to sign to offer help.

### **Flower Arranging**

We will need help with the setting up of the flower arrangements in the church on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Please come along even if you are not a flower arranger, as those that are will be happy to share their skills. We also always want help clearing and cleaning to get St Peter's looking really smart for the weekend.

### **Tombola Prizes**

We want between 300 to 400 prizes on the Tombola. So please start looking at items round your home that you can donate. These can be from packets of biscuits, cans, bottles of drink, to washing up liquid, left over presents – anything that is new, not too big. There will be boxes in the porch for gifts from the first weekend in May.

### **Cakes**

We will need a large number of cakes both for sale and for the refreshment stall. Please can all the cake makers come to our aid.

### **Plants**

For all of those gardeners and growers we are having a plant stand. Please can you donate any surplus plants. If you are splitting perennials please think of St Peter's. This stall is always very popular so it would be super if it is well stocked.

More notices about the festival will appear over the coming months on the pew sheets. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact either

**Daphne Dempster** on 01323 896306

or **Elizabeth Pay** on 01323 894799



# The Curate's egg

The deadline for Cross Keys crept up on me a bit this month, and I found myself sitting in front of my laptop on the day of the deadline wondering

what on earth to write about. When faced with such a dilemma, I did what most sensible people do and toddled off to the kitchen to make a coffee (unless it is the afternoon, in which case tea please, Earl Grey if you have it).



As I waited for the espresso machine to do its stuff (we take coffee seriously in the curatage) I started wondering what our ancestors drank before coffee and tea reached our shores. Alcohol was well-known already of course, but what about a nice warming drink, with a little kick of caffeine? How on earth did they manage? According to my *Asterix in Britian* book, the British drank 'a cup of hot water with a spot of milk please', but I'm not convinced of the historical accuracy, despite Gosciny and Uderzo's undoubted brilliance.

Well, a quick bit of googling (I'm sure that used to be a cricketing term – something to do with leg spin bowlers?) told me that a very popular drink in Britian was *posset*, a sort of broth made of hot milk curdled with wine or ale – sounds absolutely revolting, doesn't it? Alternatively, they drank small beer, which was a weak frothy ale, sometimes heated up. I could possibly manage that one, though beer isn't particularly helpful when faced with a deadline.

While musing this, my thoughts naturally turned to the ancient Israelites and the Jewish people of Jesus' time. More internet searching told me that the ancient Israelites usually drank water drawn from wells, cisterns, or rivers; milk often in the form of sour milk, thin yogurt, or whey; and fresh juices from fruits when in season.

By the time of Jesus' life in first century Judea, wine was seemingly the most common drink, perhaps influenced by the Roman occupation. Wine at that time was pretty ubiquitous, drunk by all social classes from slave to emperor (albeit of different qualities). Interestingly, Roman soldiers were rationed a litre of wine each day, although apparently this was a wine

of quite low alcohol content. Wine was also often diluted with warm water – even seawater it seems. Not sure I fancy that very much.



So what would the wine at the Last Supper have been like? I found this article from a few years ago on *The Independent* website which I thought worth sharing:

*'Near Jerusalem where the Last Supper is said to have taken place - archaeologists have found a jar inscribed with: "wine made from black raisins". This means that winemakers may have used grapes dried on the vine or in the sun on mats to create sweet, thick drinks. At sites nearby in the region, jars labelled "smoked wine" and "very dark wine" have also been found. While it was common to water down wine at the time, there was a taste in Jerusalem for rich, concentrated wine . . . Spices and fruits - including pomegranates, mandrakes, saffron and cinnamon - were used to flavour such wines, and tree resin were added to help preserve them. So, the wine drunk at the Last Supper, then, might resemble the mulled wine some of us drink at Christmas.'* <sup>1</sup>

Interesting stuff. Cheers!

Fr Joe.



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/food-and-drink/last-supper-wine-serve-easter-jesus-apostles-jerusalem-grapes-bread-miracle-blood-transubstantiation-a7681516.html>

# News from the Parochial Church Council



At the PCC meeting in January the members voted unanimously to approve two important proposals from the Rector concerning the children who come to our communion services and the inclusivity which we seek to promote at St Peter's. As the minutes of that meeting have been approved and signed as correct, they are now in the public domain, so we would like to share the relevant section with everyone.

"The Proposals: (both had been sent in advance so that they and the notes and online references about them could be read and considered before the meeting).

- 1. "This PCC supports the Rector in writing to the Bishop of Chichester, to respond to the pastoral context of our growing parish church and seek his permission to admit children to Holy Communion ahead of their hopeful confirmation later in life."***

The thoughtful discussion which took place included personal experiences, examples of the policy in action and observations and opinions formed after reading the background notes.

On reflection, receiving communion after confirmation in our early teens, as most of us did, was like getting a prize after a test; wouldn't it be better to see Holy Communion as 'a free, gracious and unconditional gift from God?' It would be the first decision a child could make for themselves about Christ, leaving confirmation to become a conscious adult decision of commitment to the faith.

The proposal, seconded by Anne Collison was agreed unanimously by PCC members, 15 for and 0 against).

*(NB. Bishop Martin has recently given his permission for this to take place.)*

- 2. "This PCC notes the vote held at the November 2023 General Synod in relation to 'Living in Love and Faith' and welcomes the amendment passed allowing the trial of experimental stand-alone services of blessing and prayers for same-sex couples. We want to serve our parish by opting-in to offer the trial service for same-sex couples when the House of Bishops takes the necessary steps, and the trial period opens."***

AF (Arwen) gave us the background to the amendment, allowing a service of blessing and prayers for same-sex couples, being passed by the General Synod and described it as a C of E compromise in the face of strongly held views on both sides of the debate. A thoughtful discussion ensued with nobody expressing their opposition to the proposal. This was not about marriage but a blessing. As an inclusive parish, it was felt this should be our next step. We did not think Jesus would turn away anyone who asked for a blessing. People in loving same-sex relationships have worshipped and indeed, ministered at St Peter's for many years and as AF (Arwen) remarked, quoting St Matthew's Gospel, "by their fruits we shall know them".

It was agreed that we should be aware that some members of our congregation, as well as most of our local churches, will find this proposal unacceptable. We must understand and accept this and pray that we do not lose any members of our congregation because of our decision. How to formally communicate our decision to the parish has yet to be decided.

The proposal, seconded by Pip Spicer was agreed unanimously by PCC members, (15 for and 0 against)."

Please feel free to discuss anything about these decisions with the clergy, churchwardens or PCC members.

**Christine Cooke** PCC Secretary



## Just supposing ...

Have you ever wasted a bit of time thinking to yourself and asking the simple question: "What if . . ."? Thought so; me too. You know, when you

wonder what might have happened if Hitler had won the second world war – or if Sherlock Holmes was in fact a real person - or if Warner Bros really did mean "That's All Folks" at the end of those cartoons - or if Guy Fawkes had succeeded in his dastardly plan to blow up Parliament?

One of the incidental pleasures of this is that you'll never know, so you can never be wrong. Never mind, it's only a game, so here is another: what if Pope Clement VII had said a firm "yes" (or rather "si", since he was Italian) to Henry VIII's plea for an annulment so that he could marry Anne Boleyn.

Yes, I know he went ahead and married her anyway, after the Pope had refused him, and that led to breaking with Rome and so creating the Church of England. But what if the Pope had said to him yes, your Majesty, go ahead, then probably Henry would have remained a Catholic. And where would that have left us now?

Such thoughts have wandered about my mind after learning that a long-time prefect of what is now named the Vatican Apostolic Archive, Archbishop Sergio Pagano, is, as it were, spilling the beans for the first time. As you probably know, for years the Vatican has been trying to debunk the idea that its vaunted secret archives are all that secret.

Well, now they're not. Signor Pagano (or should that be Your Grace in view of his stature?) has revealed some of the secrets he has uncovered in the 45 years he has worked in one of the world's most important, and unusual, repositories of documents, revealing some of the unknown, lesser-known and behind-the-scenes details of well-known sagas of the Holy See and its relations with the outside world over the past 12 centuries.

One of the prized possessions is apparently behind plate glass and illuminated with special lights, the original letter from British nobles urging the Pope to grant King Henry that annulment. As Pagano says in an interview "you can say that here we are at the birth of the Anglican Church".

And Pagano also delights in revealing how, when Napoleon Bonaparte famously seized the Vatican archives in 1810 and carted them off to Paris, Pagano's predecessor as chief archivist rolled up that 1530 letter and hid it inside a secret drawer in a chair in the archive antechamber. And the French never found it.

These fascinating facts have emerged because Pagano has given a new book-length interview entitled "*Secretum*", published a few weeks ago, that divulges some of these fascinating facts about the Holy See and its relations with the outside world.

As far as I can discover, this book is currently only in Italian, so we may have to wait patiently for an English translation to appear - or buy it and hurriedly sign up to join one of Rosemary Leech's Italian courses, I suppose.

As for this Vatican archive, it is certainly some creation. It was used exclusively to serve the pope and preserve documentation of the papacies, ecumenical councils and Vatican offices dating from the 8th century. It's enormous, with **53 miles** of shelving, much of it underground in a two-storey, fireproof, reinforced concrete bunker. It also houses documentation from Vatican embassies around the globe as well as specific collections from aristocratic families and religious orders.

By the way, that Pope, Clement VII, who turned down Henry's plea, and was born Giulio de' Medici - yes, *that* family - also commissioned Michelangelo to paint *The Last Judgement*, the fresco that covers the whole altar wall of the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican.

Incidentally if, like me, you can be a trifle vague about dates going back as far as the 16<sup>th</sup> century, it may help to note (or even remember) that after being rebuked, King Henry abolished the annates paid to the Pope in 1532, privately married Anne B.



Portrait of Pope Clement VII by Sebastiano del Piomba c 1526



the following year, and abolished all recourse to the Bishop of Rome in 1534. So, going back to those "What if . . ." thoughts, here's another. If the Pope had said yes to that royal plea, what might have happened to Cardinal Wolsey, who was plunged into fatal disgrace when the opposite happened, or Sir Thomas More come to that? No doubt Thomas Cromwell, that arch fixer, would have survived somehow, but possibly his career might have taken

a different course because in this case Wolsey's career (and life) would have survived longer.

Yes, I know, it's all silly supposition, but still it can be a useful little game that passes the time. Thanks, then, to that Archbishop for spilling (some of) the Vatican's beans. And hooray for the Church of England.

**Roger Bing**



Portrait of Henry VIII by Joos van Cleve  
c1531

Portrait of Anne Boleyn - a copy of a  
lost original painted around 1534



## Weekly Services at St Andrew's

### Sundays

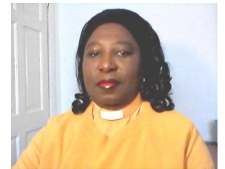
8.00am Said Holy Eucharist  
10.30am Sung Eucharist  
(Second Sunday of the month Matins)  
First Sunday in the month Sung Evensong -  
6.00pm April to October

### Wednesdays

10.00am Said Eucharist  
5.30pm Said Evening Prayer

**First Saturday of each month** 10.30am  
Wholeness & Healing service

**Last Friday of each month** 'Breathing Space'  
5.00pm Apr to Oct



Arts @ St Andrew's presents ...

## 'My Musical Travels' with Dame Felicity Lott.



Join us as internationally renowned soprano, Dame Felicity Lott, leads us on a journey through her glittering career with music, song and stories.

**7PM, 27TH APRIL AT ST ANDREW'S**

SCAN FOR BOOKING



**DOORS OPEN AT  
6.30PM. CONCERT  
FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS  
IN THE VILLAGE HALL.  
TICKETS £15**

**RAISING FUNDS FOR**  
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, CHARITY NUMBER: 1196160

## Bishopstone Fayre 2024

A joint event by St Andrews  
& the Village Hall Committee



**Saturday 25th May 12 to 4.30pm**

# The project continues ...

A year has passed, and Jane and I returned to London in February to visit more Wren churches and other churches in the vicinity of the City of London. In this piece I have decided to concentrate on the non-Wren churches because of their interesting history (the others will perhaps come in a later article).

## St Alban the Martyr at Holborn

This lovely church is hidden behind High Holborn's huge Prudential headquarters. It was first designed by William Butterfield. It opened in 1863 and was paid for by a former governor of the Bank of England who became the first Lord Addington. Although the church suffered war damage, its interior is awesomely simple. The east end is dominated by a 60-foot-high mural of the Trinity in Glory by Hans Feibusch and his stations of the cross are down the sides of the church.



The peaceful courtyard has an impressive sculpture of Jesus raised from the dead which was once again the work of Hans Feibusch. The church is Anglo-Catholic with a high standard of liturgy. In 1865 the first vicar introduced the Three-Hour Service on Good Friday, which was gradually adopted by other parishes.

## St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield

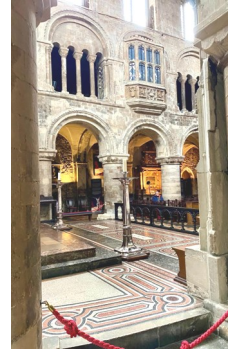
This church is believed to be the oldest surviving continuous place of worship in London. The church is built on the remains of a monastery built on open land outside the City in 1123. It was founded by Rahere, a courtier of Henry 1, who, on contracting a fever, pledged to build a hospital for the poor in London, should he recover.



Thus, he was the founder of St. Barts hospital as part of his Augustinian priory. Just a small portion of the priory and cloisters remains. The church bells, installed in 1510, ring out the oldest peal in the country.



An interesting feature of the church is Prior Bolton's oriel window built into a wall and from where he could see the high altar, Prior Rahere's tomb and the choir. William Hogarth was baptised here, and there is a hideous bronze sculpture by Damien Hirst of St Bartholomew holding up his flayed skin. The church has been the location of many films including *Shakespeare in Love*, *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*.



A close-up of the oriel window



## St Bartholomew the Less, Smithfield.

The church is hidden behind the gateway to St. Bart's Hospital and is easily missed (as Jane and I found out!). The gateway, built in 1702 with stones left over from St Pauls Cathedral, includes London's only statue of Henry VIII. He shut St. Bartholomew's Priory but saved its hospital. In 1547 he ordered the Chapel of the Holy Cross, dating from 1123, one of five hospital chapels, to be retained and turned into a parish church with a parish boundary embracing just the hospital. Holy Cross Chapel then became St. Bart's The Less to distinguish it from the parish church. The hospital Church tower is 15<sup>th</sup> century and the bells date from 1400 and 1430.



The church suffered damage in World War 2 and was closed for a while.

The interior is a wooden octagon and was installed between 1789 and 1791 within the existing and partly pre-Reformation walls.

There are numerous plaques to medical staff, and Inigo Jones was baptized here in 1573. Being a parish church, it is also a hospital Chapel and Anglican and Catholic masses are held every Sunday.



Other bells also rang out, and these bells are mentioned in *Barnaby Rudge* and in the rhyme *Oranges and Lemons*.

The church is known as the Musicians Church; Handel and Mendelssohn played the organ here and the Royal College of Music was founded here. Sir Henry



Wood's ashes are buried down one side. Charles Lamb, Leigh Hunt and Samuel Taylor Coleridge were pupils at Christ's Hospital School which stood opposite the church.

On the Sunday, Jane and I returned to St Magnus the Martyr at London Bridge for High Mass, where we met with John, the organist, who is also the accompanist for Seaford Choral Society. After food and wine in the crypt, we attended evensong at Southwark Cathedral. We had a very enjoyable time on our trip, although there is still so much to see and do!

St Sepulchre - without Newgate



This is the largest city church and was traditionally the place of departure for the Crusades. It was recorded in 1137, rebuilt in the mid 5th century and gutted by the Great Fire. The parishioners repaired and rebuilt it between 1667-71 without reference to Wren as they were not prepared to wait for him! It was rebuilt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century but damaged in the Blitz.

Historically the church had links with Newgate Prison which was on the site of the current Old Bailey. An underground tunnel connected the two, and traditionally a bell in the church was rung when a prisoner was due for execution at St. Aubyn's.



Newgate execution bell



Karen Jones

**St Peter's APCM 2024**

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will take place on Sunday 28 April at approx. 11.30am, directly after the 10am Parish Eucharist**

The Annual Report of the PCC and the Financial Statements for the year ending December 2023 will be discussed. Copies of these documents will be available at the back of the church several days before the meeting. Both churchwardens are seeking re-election and a deputy churchwarden is being sought. There are two vacancies for elected members on the PCC and one for a Deanery Synod Rep. The relevant forms will be at the back of the church.

CC

**Open Gardens 2024**

**This popular summer Saturday afternoon event will take place three times this year.**

**Have a look around someone else's garden and enjoy a cup of tea and cake while chatting with friends and visitors.**

**Entry including refreshments: £5**

**Gardens will be open 2-4pm**

**8th June Valerie Skues**

**6th July Christa Ovenden**

**3rd August Liz Pay**



Further details will be published nearer the date of each event in the Bulletin.

# Brigid of Kildare - a saint for our times

It was only two years ago that Brigid was made a national saint of Ireland, alongside Patrick and Columba. If ever there was a saint for our times, it is Brigid. The attraction of Brigid is that of a beautiful lively young lady emerging from the mists of pagan mysticism, easily confused with a goddess named Brighid, and is known for her light and fire, her love of life and her generous heart.

Brigid was born within Patrick's lifetime – they may well have met. She was the daughter of a pagan landowner and a Christian slave.

She was born over a threshold as her mother carried milk, and is remembered for her sunny mischievous disposition, her feistiness, and her love of God. Out of this came a delight in the world around her and compassion for the poor. There are many stories about her.

Brigid was trying to set up a small community and asked the King of Leinster for land. He refused. She asked him again, adding 'Give me as much land as my cloak will cover.' Four of her sisters held the corners of her cloak and as they walked the cloak grew and Brigid received enough land for her double monastery (men and women), with a lake, a forest and fields for crops. A bit like the boy's bread and fish which, blessed by Our Lord, fed over 5000 people.

Bishop Mel decided to clothe each of the new sisters with a veil and a blessing. When he got to Brigid he used the words to ordain a bishop, and when challenged said, 'This dignity has been given by God alone. I have no power in this matter.' (Even today the local Anglican bishop is known as 'the Most Reverend' (an archbishop's form of address and so keeps the story alive!)

Brigid was wonderfully attuned to nature and the seasons. She can be seen as a patron saint of the environment, the world now at such great risk from (as the Pope has written) 'the ill-considered exploitation of nature, humanity running the risk of



Icon of St Brigid by Sr Aloysius

destroying it and becoming a victim of its own degradation.'

When Brigid was young, her father took her in a chariot to sell her to the king. As she waited at the castle gate, a beggar came along. She gave him her father's sword, and when the king realised what she had done, he said, 'I cannot buy her. She is too good for me. I could never win her obedience.'

Another time, a wealthy lady heard that Brigid was in the area.

She came and gave her a beautiful basket of apples. But then poor people came, and Brigid gave them her apples. 'They are for you!' said the disgusted lady, but Brigid replied, 'What's mine is theirs!'

A tradition of the Western Isles is that Brigid was the handmaid to Mary as she came to give birth to her Son. This is Celtic thought where times and chronology do not necessarily work logically. Brigid is still known as 'Mary of the Gael' (the Irish) and linked with Mary, the Mother of God, at the Feast of the Presentation. Brigid's feast day is 1<sup>st</sup> Feb, the handmaid leading Our Lady into the Presentation, a festival of joy and honesty.



St Brigid statue and Fr Peter

Brigid's generosity in life is expressed in an ancient poem attributed to her. It begins:

*'I should like a great lake of ale for the King of Kings.*

*I should like the angels of Heaven to be drinking it through time eternal.*

*I should like the men of Heaven at my house.*

*I should like barrels of peace at their disposal.*

*I should like vessels of charity for distribution.....*

*I should like the people of Heaven, the poor, to be gathered around us from all parts.'*



Brigid's cross

We live through times of great transition, internationally around migration and oppression, but also around human lives and issues of human sexuality and gender. In Brigid we see a young woman coming out of the mists of Druids and pagan goddesses, living a life of adoration and respect for all, compassion and acceptance. So many boundaries are collapsing today, for nations and people groups, and around the sacred country of human sexuality. To be inclusive in our church is to be generous, hospitable, respectful of creation, and yet also contemplative, always seeking God in our world, in each other, in ourselves. Perhaps St Brigid's life can help and inspire us and keep alive the light and fire of God within us.



Fr Chris

## Planned Giving - How to join the scheme:

### Online

The website is <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk>

The homepage has a photo of hands and it asks if you want to donate and prompts you to select your parish

Our Parish is East Blatchington – St Peter the Apostle

The Parish code is 103050439

You will need your bank sort code and account number to complete the relevant page.

Your direct debit will be taken on the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month

You can change or stop the direct debit when you wish

You will be asked if you want your donation to be increased automatically each year and again this is completely at your discretion.

If you are a tax payer the tax will be claimed automatically and sent to the Parish

### By Telephone

Simply call the PGS team on 0333 002 1260 and they will set up your giving for you. You will need your bank details and the Parish Code of 103050439

### By Post

You will need to obtain a Gift form from me and send it in the post to  
The Parish Giving Scheme, 76 Kingsholm Road, Gloucester,  
GL1 3BD

Also if you want to make any alterations to your giving you can again make alterations on the website mentioned earlier or simply call the team on 0333 002 1271.

**Elizabeth Pay**      **Tel:** 01323 894799  
**Email:** [elizabeth.pay@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth.pay@btinternet.com)

## Thank you

.... 'We are able to be such a vibrant church because of your regular generosity - every penny you donate goes into the maintenance of our beautiful building and funds the ministry of this church. We greatly thank everyone who already donates via the Planned Giving scheme and warmly encourage those who might be considering doing so'.

**Arwen**

# Pop! Goes the weasel



Photo: James Armes  
on Unsplash

Half a Pound of Tuppenny Rice,  
Half a pound of treacle.  
That's the way the money goes,  
Pop! Goes the weasel.

On a particularly rainy day I stumbled across a fascinating piece on this old nursery rhyme in Wikipedia. I liked the Cockney explanation set in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century. 'Weasel' may refer to Rhyming Slang for coat (weasel and stoat), although some say this is too early and weasel may be just something valuable that could be pawned. Either way, 'pop' could refer to a well-known slang for pawning something. Tuppenny (2d) rice and treacle are very poor foods. According to the Museum of London treacle is a gooey syrup used as a top-per to sweeten rice pudding. So, the nursery rhyme could be talking about pawning your coat to buy the cheapest of food available - which poses the question was that about desperation or simply a way of life?

The second verse sets the scene in Victorian Shoreditch.

Up and down the City Road,  
In and out the Eagle,  
That's the way the money goes,  
Pop! Goes the weasel.

The City Road, (constructed 1761), extended southwards from London's first bypass, the Pentonville Road from Paddington to Islington, (constructed 1756), right to the heart of the City. The City Road had a well-known pawn establishment in the 1850's. The Eagle may refer to the famous Eagle Tavern on City Road which was rebuilt as a music hall in 1825 and as a public house in 1901. Today, the pub has the words of the second verse written on its front façade.

The third verse of the rhyme refers to, 'knocking the monkey off the table with a stick'. The monkey may be slang for the glazed jars used in public houses and a stick was a shot of alcohol (rum or brandy). 'Knock it off' meant knock it back or drink it. Not sure children should be singing about this!



# Celebrating 950 years of Chichester Cathedral



We have recently received an email from the Diocese about an Exhibition in 2025 in the Cathedral (see below). Obviously in our church we have the memorial to the aeronaut Henry Corwell and the lightning strike plaque which I can photograph and write about, but what else is there of interest in the church or in your homes? It would be good to take part in this and I am happy to act as the link person for our parish (unless someone else would like to do so) to send your responses and photos to Vanessa. She would like our responses, if possible, by 19th May. Please let me know if you have anything to contribute, articles, thoughts or suggestions.

**Christine Tel: 490548 Email: [christinecooke.xks@gmail.com](mailto:christinecooke.xks@gmail.com)**

2025 is a special year. It will mark 950 years since this Cathedral moved from Selsey to Chichester. It will also be the Diocesan Year of Faith, as it will be 1700 years since the Council of Nicea, one of the key defining moments in the Christian faith. Throughout 2025 we will be celebrating our faith, both in the Cathedral and across the Diocese. (There will be more detailed publicity about this later in the Spring and we look forward to sharing this with you).

**The Cathedral needs your help. We are planning an exhibition in the Cathedral from February – November 2025 and we would like you, the parishes of the Diocese, to help us tell the story of our faith – what it means to us and why it matters.**

**We have four questions for you.**

- 1) As you think back over the last 950 years of the Christian faith in the Diocese of Chichester, do you have any particular heroes or heroines? Who are they and why do they matter to you? (If your church is an Anglo-Saxon one, you can think back to the arrival of St Wilfrid in 681!)
- 2) Is there anyone or anything commemorated in your church that is unusual or that you find interesting? Who or what is it? How does it speak to you of the Christian faith? (For example, you may have a Bible donated in memory of someone who died in battle. You may have a memorial or tombstone to someone who did something memorable.)
- 3) Do you have any Christian memorabilia in your house or church? (For example, a pocket Gospel handed to a soldier on the beach at Dunkirk or a medieval pilgrim badge. Perhaps you have a cookery book in which someone has written prayers or a child's sampler with verses from Scripture.)
- 4) What makes an exhibition interesting for you? What would it need to include to make you visit the Cathedral?

Finally, if any church has any Medieval manuscripts or missals; if there are any Tudor or Stuart Bibles out there, please would you let us know.

The Revd Vanessa Baron, Canon Treasurer of Chichester Cathedral



## Piano and organ lessons

Returning to playing or beginning?

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

Contact Coryn on tel: 0773898146 or email: [coryn.roberts68@gmail.com](mailto:coryn.roberts68@gmail.com)





# Groups

 **Forget-Me-Knot**  
**MEMORY CAFÉ**

A place to meet for those experiencing memory loss and their carers  
Friday Mornings 10.30-12 noon  
St Peter's Church Hall, Belgrave Road,  
Seaford

A Partnership between

  **St Peter's Church**  
East Blatchington, Seaford

 01323 914689  
 [hello@seafriends.org.uk](mailto:hello@seafriends.org.uk)



## 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



## for the Younger Members of the Benefice churches

Our group for 10-18 year olds meets  
every first Wednesday 4.30 - 6pm.

The Lighthouse (previously called EBB Café Church) is a  
fun and friendly group for friendship, faith and food - a  
creative space to explore faith and prayer, using craft,  
activity, and outdoor fun.

New members welcome: please contact the Rector for  
more information. [rector@ebbchurches.org.uk](mailto:rector@ebbchurches.org.uk)



For the youngest members of the Church -  
those who have been brought for baptism  
at St Peter's and St Andrew's - and their  
parents.

'Little Fishes' meets on the 3rd Sunday  
afternoon of the month 3 - 4.30pm for play  
and pray adventures.

Led by Anne Collison

Contact the Rector for further details  
tel: 01323 892964

Email: [rector@ebbchurches.co.uk](mailto:rector@ebbchurches.co.uk)

## 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

## Monthly Friday Lunches

you are invited to a

### Community Lunch

on the last Friday of every month

12.30-2pm in St Peter's Chapel Rooms

Booking appreciated via the Benefice Office



# St Peter's at prayer in April & May



## Weekend Services

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

**Sunday 6pm** Evening Prayer BCP (not 1st Sunday in the month when there is Evensong at St Andrew's)

## Weekday Services

**Monday to Saturday**

**9.30am** Morning Prayer also on *Facebook Live*

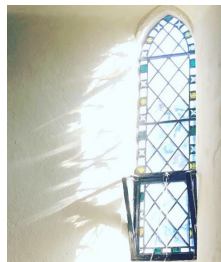
**Wednesday 10.30am** Midweek Eucharist

**Monday and Wednesday 8pm** Compline (online only)

These weekday services are streamed live at [www.facebook.com/StPetersEB](http://www.facebook.com/StPetersEB)

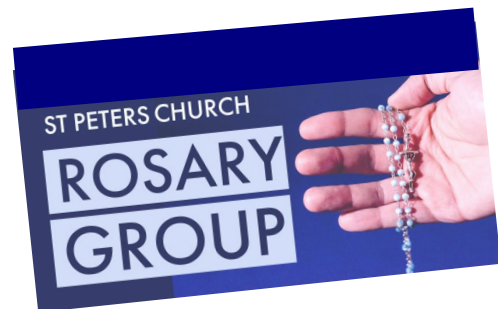
## 'BREATHING SPACE'

our silent prayer meeting, takes place in the church and online ... on Zoom  
**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,**  
Meeting ID: 851 6436 0499 Passcode: letmein



**NB.** This group will now meet every 2nd Tuesday evening at 6.30pm.

New people are welcome to join this group.  
Curious? Just come along.  
Further details from Fr Joe

## PARISH PRAYER DIARY

Our monthly prayer diary is available on the church website – [www.ebbchurches.org.uk](http://www.ebbchurches.org.uk) Printed copies are available in the church porch. This 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: 899054 email: [officeebb.benefice@gmail.com](mailto: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 Arwen Folkes 892964 email: rector@ebbchurches.org.uk*

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

**ASSISTANT CURATE** *Rev'd Joe Padfield 672848 email: curate@ebbchurches.org.uk*

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

**READER** *Kay Blackburn 870902*

**CHURCHWARDENS** *Anne Collison 892364 email: annexplore@btinternet.com  
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](http://www.ebbchurches.org.uk)

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

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

**Pastoral care:** To request prayer and seek any other support, spiritual or practical  
*Fr Joe Padfield 672848, Kay Blackburn 870902*

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 or dusk, if earlier.

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*

**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: *Jenny Baker 890612*

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

**BUILDING PROJECTS MANAGER:** *Christa Lindner 07708 044270  
email: churchbuildingseb@gmail.com*

**MOTHERS' UNION:** (Not meeting at present)

**ART and CRAFT GROUP:** *Kay Blackburn 870902*

**St Peter's reg. charity no.: 1173506**

Photos by Rev'd Arwen Folkes, Christine Cooke, Fr Chris, Phil Sutters, Fr Joe, Godfrey Cooke, Anne Collison, Diana Hitchin, Kay Blackburn, Linda Stratford, Jane Schollick, contributors, and from the Internet (Creative Commons, Wikipedia.org, Wikimedia.org, Commons Media).

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

# Easter 2024 in East Blatchington



Sunrise Eucharist on Easter Morning



This year's Pascal Candle



Maundy Thursday  
The Night Garden



One of the crosses and painted stones made in 'Lighthouse' in Holy Week

The church on Easter Afternoon set up for Benediction



Lighting the Pascal Candle  
on Easter Saturday



Enjoy the spring. Take care and stay safe.