

# SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG



St Peter's Church  
The Lawn  
Budleigh Salterton EX9 6LT

July 2023

Editor: Lizzy Doorbar

## A MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES



Dear Friends,

It's amazing what you learn looking at Google. Fun fact: Apparently July was named July in 44BC by the Roman senate (what have the Romans ever done for us?) in honour of Julius Caesar. Before that it was known as Quintillis because it was the fifth month of the year which only started in March. Winter was

deemed to have no months! Mind boggling.

It is a lesson that everything we think is timeless and changeless actually isn't. The first rule of understanding the universe is that in time, all things are changing all of the time including ourselves. Every atom in our bodies is replaced every seven years. If you look at a photograph of yourself taken when you were young, there is not one bit of you in that photo that exists as you today – you are a completely different person physically.

But you are still you. How can this be? It has been posited by physicist and theologian John Polkinghorne that what we call the soul is in fact "an information bearing pattern" held in the mind of God. Every new atom that becomes you miraculously conforms to this pattern that is you.

This pattern lives, grows, and eventually dies to that physical form. But in eternity, in the realm of God nothing dies, and nothing is wasted or cast aside. Your "pattern" is remembered in the mind of God. Resurrection is part of the fabric of the universe and not an aberration. Jesus has showed us our future!

If you are still with me – well done – sit down, have a biscuit and a cup of tea or coffee. Some things in life are just mysteries and I am content to leave them that way. Science can take us all just so far, but I am glad that science can sometimes lend a hand and not contradict our faith. You cannot put a dollop of love or compassion or the divine in a Petrie dish and examine it under a microscope. I am quite glad these wonderful theories exist but in the end, faith also cannot be examined or investigated. And faith, however small or hard to come by, can move mountains.

Love and peace,

**Huge thanks** are due to Christopher Briscoe and Chris Parrish, who have recently retired from PCC secretary and churchwarden respectively. There will be more about each of them in this and the next edition of the Mini-Mag.

## Lunchtime Spring Concerts

Recently we had four concerts in the church organised by Stephen Tanner, our Organist and Choir Master. It was a great way to wind down at the end of the week. Have you ever imagined the combination of saxophone and organ? It really works. Stephen found himself playing for two of the concerts when a tenor opted out at short notice. He had lost his voice! The concerts were short, beautifully played and well worth attending. Do come next time!

*Sally Rogers*

## June 100 club

The winners in June were: £5 Anne Marshall £10 Lucinda Stuart-Banks £20 Sally Muddle. *Fiona Hennah*

## Memories of Joan Walker, who died on May 9th aged 97

Joan grew up in Liverpool and David, her husband to be, carried her books from school when they were in the 6th form! She graduated from Liverpool University in around 1946. This was no mean feat for a girl at that time. Few women achieved this.

David and Joan eventually retired to Budleigh from Exeter university. When Robert Charles came here as Vicar he found the Mother's Union struggling and he asked Joan to help. She did so.....for 20 years. This was service indeed. A lovely lady, very unassuming. Joan moved to a Nursing Home in Ottery in 2019. Five members of their staff came to her funeral at St Peter's. Her two sons and their families were here too.

*Thank you to Sally Rogers for these memories of Joan*



## Choral Recollections

For some of the longer standing members of the choir, watching the coronation in Westminster Abbey brought back many happy memories. We sang the services there over a long weekend not once, but were invited back a second time. There is a tradition in cathedrals to have visiting choirs when the resident choir is on holiday. We were lucky enough to travel over the years between Durham in the north, Truro in the south, Llandaff in South Wales, Bury St Edmunds in the east and even across the Irish Sea to Dublin. York Minster could be said to have been the most challenging due to its exceptionally long nave. It was hard work, but exhilarating and fascinating to learn about the different procedures each followed and to be able to absorb so many magnificent architectural styles. We sang in at least fourteen cathedrals and spent many hours singing in our own cathedral in Exeter, where we had close contacts. It was a privilege to have had such wonderful opportunities and ones we shall always remember.

*Jane Briscoe, choir member for thirty two years!*

## Church Meetings held in May

**PCC:** 16th May. There was a request that the High Altar be used again for major festivals. The Vicar agreed to consider this. A report from the Head Teacher indicated some serious problems at St. Peters School over Covid related absences, staffing difficulties and severe financial problems. Christine Channon is retiring as our Reader due to a diocese-imposed age limit. Jo Bowen volunteered to act as Chair of the flower arrangers for a trial period.

**APCM:** 21st May. Chris Parrish has retired as Church Warden after many years sterling service. John Rockey was elected to serve as Warden in his place, with Iris Cooper. The Electoral roll is down 2 at 144, due to deaths and moves away. The Vicar was on holiday in Spain. Widespread disappointment was expressed at his absence from this most important meeting. There was also continuing concern at the virtual demise of the Churches Partnership, although it has now been agreed to exchange readers again, which had been in abeyance since Covid. *Christopher Briscoe, for the last time!*

## A Little Something to Reflect on

As a Christian I would be horrified if someone said I was living life as an atheist but many Christians are. They might *believe* in God but they don't expect to *encounter* God. The Orthodox priest and author Stephen Freeman thinks many Christians live like atheists because they imagine they're living in a two-storey universe, us here on earth while God lives in heaven, upstairs, absent, minding his own business. When we live in this type of world God isn't close but far away and distant. According to Freeman we need to recover a one storey vision of the universe, we need to see that God is everywhere and we should expect to see him all the time. Perhaps we need to change our expectations, God is a living reality to be *encountered* wherever we are, whatever we're doing. *Jean Burrows*

## Mother's Union Meeting on June 13th

Twenty members welcomed the Rev Jean Burrows to talk to us about some of her experiences of living in Tanzania. It was a most interesting insight into the time she spent at a theological college in a remote area of the country. Of the theological students in training only 3 were women. It was a thought-provoking talk which prompted many questions. *Alison Newsom*



**Gala Week Pudding Night:** Christine Channon and Iris Cooper would like to thank all those who contributed a pudding for this event; and to also thank our wonderful helpers and bar staff. We were well supported and had a lovely evening. There was an impressive and colourful display of puddings and the event made a profit of £300 for Church Funds.

**The Devon Air Ambulance** needs a community of volunteers to keep our charity shops open and our emergency helicopters flying. To find out how you could help, please contact our Volunteer Engagement Officer, Charlotte Fleetwood on 01392 466 666 or email [volunteer@daat.org](mailto:volunteer@daat.org)

### FunFaith – our most recent session

We had a fantastic morning hearing 'The Widow's Coins' story. The children made little 3D Widows, did some coin rubbing and made some excellent coin headdresses! We finished up with creative prayer whereby the children looked at coins and said what they could see on them; for example, the portcullis. We talked about how the portcullis helps keep the Crown Jewel's safe in the Tower of London and then thought about and prayed for the people that keep US safe. We then went into church to show the congregation what we had been up to and processed through the last hymn of 'O when the saints go marching in' which the children LOVED!



FunFaith

*Stacey James*



### Open the Book

The parable of the wise and foolish builders is a popular story and we did it justice with foolish Farid and sensible Simeon. Jane Buckland-Wright provided us with 2 houses which were unrolled as the houses were built and the children enjoyed providing the rain and thunder noises. The other story in June was Jesus welcoming the children despite the disciples' protestations. Jesus has time for everyone, however small we might be.

*Jean Burrows*

**People in our church: Christopher Briscoe.** Most recently, Christopher is known as the mastermind behind our glorious car park, but you may not be surprised to learn there is more to him than car park creation.

- From the age of eight Christopher knew he wanted to be an architect, partly inspired by visits to his great aunt's beautiful and interesting house.
- Christopher read Modern History at Trinity College Oxford, then trained as an architect in Cheltenham, where thank goodness he met Jane!
- Always something of a rebel, Christopher has a passion for providing ordinary working people with a good living environment both in terms of housing and community.
- Home was a converted barn near Oxford, where he started his own business and he and Jane had three daughters.
- Due to lifelong asthma, he finally took the doctor's advice and the family moved to the coast, living in Budleigh and Colaton Raleigh. He continued to work full time until the age of 72.
- He has used his skills to benefit our church in a number of projects, including removing pews from the lady chapel, installing the servery and the Nave Altar Platform.



Christopher has many and wide-ranging interests, which include the GWR model railway branchline he has built, based on the books of both Thomas Hardy and Anthony Trollope (and the names of his six grandchildren). It is exquisite, detailed and beautiful, and will shortly appear in the Railway Modeller Magazine. This picture shows just a small part of it! Thank you Christopher for all you have given to our church, and for your energy and vitality in the service of our church community.

*Editor Lizzy*

## DIARY DATES FOR JULY

*Tuesday 4th 9.30 am: St Peter's Prayer Group in the Lady Chapel*

*Tuesday 4th 5.30 pm: Julian Group at 7 Exmouth Road, Budleigh EX9 6AF*

*Sunday 9th 10 am - 11.15 am: FunFaith for Primary age children, Peter Hall*

*Sunday 9th 6 pm: Choral Evensong*

*Tuesday 11th 2.30 pm: Mothers' Union outing*

*Thursday 13th 12.15 pm: Loaves & Fishes lunch, Peter Hall. Book with Fran, or Mary Jones on 443333 by six days in advance. Cost £10.*

*Friday 14th 9 am - 1 pm: Food Market and Craft Fair in the Public Hall*

*Thursday 20th 8.45 am: Men's Breakfast, Seachange. Book on 443333 three days in advance*

*Sunday 30th 12.15 pm: Solos Lunch. Book with Fran by the previous Wednesday*

*Rendezvous Café every Friday at 10 am in the Peter Hall*

## SERVICES

**Sundays** Holy Communion at 8 am and 10 am Choral Evensong 6 pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

**Wednesdays** Holy Communion at 9.30 am

For services at the other RMC churches see [www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk](http://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk)

## QUICK CONTACTS

**VICAR: The Revd. Martin Jacques, The New Vicarage, Vicarage Road, East Budleigh, EX9 6EF. 443473**

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Working in RMC Office Weds 10.00 – 12.00, Friday 10.00 – 2.00 **443397**

**Churchwardens:** Iris Cooper 445273 John Rockey 445520

**Deputy Wardens:** Judith Stewart-Young 442197 George Maddaford 446077

Pat Rogers 446304 Eileen Milne 446725

Angie McKenna 911243

**PCC Secretary: Fran Mills 07880 331465 PCC Treasurer: Tony Gray 444006**

**Director of Music & Organist: Stephen Tanner 07804 209226 Peter Hall Manager: George Maddaford 446077**

**St Peter's Burial Ground: Milena McClellan 445366 Safeguarding Representative: Tina Ellett 07426 090311**

**Friends of St Peter's: Co-ordinator Tony Gray 444006 [stpetersbudleightreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:stpetersbudleightreasurer@gmail.com)**

To join the Mini-Mag email list, please send your address to Lizzy Doorbar at [doorbars@btinternet.com](mailto:doorbars@btinternet.com)

Contributions to the Mini-Mag are most welcome. Please send them to Lizzy by 20th of the month. The earlier I receive your piece, the greater the chance of it finding space in the Mini-Mag!