

SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG



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

April 2024

Editor: Lizzy Doorbar

A MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES



Dear Friends,

I have given assemblies to local schools on both St. David and St. Patrick just recently but what of our own English patron Saint St. George?

St. George's day occurs every April 23rd and at first sight you wonder what how on earth that happened. George of Lydda was a 5th century Greek from what is now a part of modern Turkey called Cappadocia, and he was a Roman soldier who was executed for refusing to renounce his Christian faith. As a military martyr he became extraordinarily popular internationally in both East and West and is also venerated across the Muslim world also, so a more international saint it is hard to imagine.

He has been the patron saint of England since 1348 when he was chosen to be so by Edward III. The most famous image of St. George is of him fighting a dragon. That legend started in the 11th century and apparently took place in what is now Libya. Our flag which is the flag of St. George, a red cross on a white background, originated first in Genoa in Italy and appears as part of many other flags.

So basically, we have representing our country the most international saint that transcends religious traditions and national boundaries. I suppose Edward wanted a "military saint" to represent us and it is probably how this otherwise obscure saint became so popular to so many people. His origins may be obscure, and his death is even less clear. There is a tomb in Lydda, just south of Tel Aviv that purports to have his remains though the Muslim world claims to have had his remains in a Mosque in Mosul, Iraq but this mosque was destroyed by Islamic State in 2014.

So England's patron saint is the most international saint that has traditionally appealed to diverse peoples and religions so in a funny kind of way, is quite befitting a modern Britain that increasingly reflects that demographic. Happy St. George's day!

Love and peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Martin".

I humbly apologise for the technical hitch in last month's Mini-Mag, where the layout was not entirely as it should be. I hope you managed to make sense of most of it, and even more I hope that normal service is resumed this month!

Editor Lizzy

March 100 Club Draw results: Janice Brace: £5. Roger Hennah: £10. Mary Morris: £20. *Fiona Hennah*



The Parish Supper

The March Parish Supper was well organised by Fran at the rather splendid new 'The Holt', otherwise known as Budleigh Cricket Club. But hey, some people were happier than others! Well, this is Budleigh after all. The after-dinner talk explaining the history and future of the Club was quite exciting. We sang Happy Birthday to Rev Martin who was suitably surprised!
Pat Rogers

Exeter Temple Salvation Army Band and Songsters Spring Concert

We are delighted to welcome the return of the band on Saturday 20th April at 6.30pm in St Peter's Church. Tickets £10, available from The Card Shop Too in the High Street, the Parish Office, Malcolm Jones, and on the Door. Do join us and bring family and friends for what will be a very uplifting and enjoyable concert.
Malcolm Jones [01395 443333](tel:01395443333)

Loaves and Fishes

This photo was taken of a very jolly group at Loaves and Fishes last month. We all have a lot of fun! It costs £10 for a main course and pudding. We would love to see more people next month on Thursday 11th April at 12 for 12.30. Book with Fran or Mary (443333) 6 days in advance.
Maggie Tipping



Sundays at Six – a new series of concerts in St Peter's church

For five Sundays from 28th April we will be presenting a new series of musical events at St Peter's. The myriad sounds of our wonderful organ will be heard across three organ recitals from David Davies, Stephen Tanner and for the first event Jean-René André, the organist of Rennes Cathedral in Brittany, France who we are delighted to welcome back for a return visit to Budleigh. Jean-René's programme will include works by Bach and Mozart alongside works by the great French organ composers Guilmant, Vierne and Dupré. He will also play a piece with strong Devon connections, "Holsworthy Church Bells" by S.S.Wesley, a former organist of Exeter Cathedral. Our own choir will present their monthly offering of Choral Evensong and will close the series with a choral concert of "Sacred Music for the Seasons". All events will be at 6.00pm. Free admission with a retiring collection.
Stephen Tanner

Exmouth Choral Society Spring concert on 4th May at 7 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Exmouth

This will be our second concert with our new Musical Director, Matthew Jeffrey. Tickets are £16 through the choir website or £17 on the door. The programme includes two choral favourites by Fauré, his 'Requiem' and 'Cantique de Jean Racine'. Also Britten's 'Rejoice in the Lamb', Parry's 'Blest Pair of Sirens' and 'Spatzen-Messe' by Mozart. Do come!
Lizzy Doorbar

Thirtieth anniversary of Jean Burrows' Ordination

Jean was ordained thirty years ago this month – and here she is after the ordination service when she was one of the first women to be ordained priest. As you know, she kindly gives us a Little Something to think about each month:

In over thirty years of public Christian ministry I have experienced some gender discrimination although, thankfully, not as much as many women. In such situations I go back to Jesus who was very countercultural in his interactions with women. He addressed women directly, never spoke down to them (no mansplaining!), undermined them, ignored them or exploited them. He had theological discussions with them and even entrusted the news of his resurrection to a woman, the icing on the cake for me.
Jean Burrows



Close Encounters with Chinese Christians in the 1990s

'Seek ye First ...' It seemed so incongruous - was I hearing things? Stanley Market on a Saturday morning in Hong Kong was heaving. To escape the chatter, the bustle, the bartering and the cooking smells, I walked towards a tiny promenade to have a look at the South China Sea. 'Alleluia Alleluia'. There sat two Chinese girls aged about eleven; book open and singing in Cantonese. I joined in and once they had got over their initial surprise, they struck up again. Together we sang 'Seek ye First the Kingdom of God'. My policeman son, Peter, was on duty and his knowledge of Cantonese would have been helpful. But it didn't matter; the same Spirit moved us and we sang together as members of the same Family. *George Lisle*

Stewardship Sunday at St Peter's on 28th April

Rev'd Martin will address Planned Giving on Stewardship Sunday. You may recall that, in the light of our budget deficit of normal expenditure over normal income for this year I made a plea in the January Mini-mag. I suggested that if each of our regular attendees were able to increase their giving by £2.50 per week with gift aid, that would put our finances back on a level footing. A few of the congregation did so and we are very grateful to them for that. However, I understand that the vast majority are still giving the same as before. Given the 8.5% increase in state pension from this April I hope that some may re-consider and see if they are able to help us out. *Tony Gray, PCC Treasurer*

People in our church – Jenny Steele

Jenny grew up in an evangelical Christian family in Lincolnshire, in which everything revolved around church. She trained as a primary teacher in Bradford, and taught in Rotherham for one year, during which time she was confirmed into the Anglican Church. She returned to her home county of Lincolnshire for at least 25 years. She worshipped in a church which had a strong musical tradition – but in those days the choir only comprised men and boys. Thank goodness times have changed!

In the late 1980s Jenny had a complete change of career and became a Superintendent Registrar. She conducted all the civil marriages in the district and it was a joy to be part of people's special day.

Jenny conducted the ceremony, and a registrar wrote in the register. On one occasion the groom was very nervous, and when he could not press firmly enough, the registrar helped by suggesting, 'put your weight on it', so he wrote '15 stone 2 pounds'. It is very complicated to make changes in the register – you can't cross anything out, you can't use correction fluid; there is a lengthy procedure involved in getting it changed!

In 1997, at a difficult time in her life Jenny left Lincolnshire and came to Budleigh knowing no one except an old family friend, Peter Burness, who was organist at St Peter's. She came to church and was able to join the choir - just at the time when every August they sang in various cathedrals the Daily Offices & Sunday Services. A wonderful and sometimes nerve-racking experience.

After a few months Jenny managed to get the same job as Superintendent Registrar for Honiton, which she thoroughly enjoyed. At different times, Jenny has had to deal with a marriage of convenience, where the groom paid the bride to be married. Also a death-bed marriage in hospital, where the bride died the following day and the groom brought Jenny a huge bouquet of flowers in gratitude for her role. Another groom tried (and failed) to commit bigamy by saying that the first marriage, though still undissolved, had not lasted long. Occasionally a couple wanted a very quiet wedding with just themselves, thereby needing to find people on the street to come to be witnesses, which is entirely legal.

After being in Budleigh for two years she met Harry, an old friend. They married in 2002 in St Peter's Church, but very sadly in 2013 Harry suddenly died, four days before Christmas. Friends in church and in the choir were incredibly supportive. Jenny's grandchildren love to come here and sense the friendliness of the church and town. Jenny's 22-year-old granddaughter says Budleigh is her favourite place in the world!

Jenny feels Budleigh is a very special place. The community is not closed, but open to new people and new ideas. Jenny volunteers at the Information Centre which demonstrates that we have such a lively community. Music is central to worship for Jenny, and being able to be part of the church choir means a great deal. Jenny's parents visited and had wonderful times here, and found worship in St Peter's uplifting even though it was so different to their own church.

Jenny enjoys being involved with Open the Book and the Pastoral Care team – and she is a member of the skittles team (which could do with a few more members!) based at the Feathers Pub.



DIARY DATES FOR APRIL

Tuesday 2nd 9.30 am : St Peter's Prayer Group in the Lady Chapel

Wednesday 3rd 10.30 for 11 am : Fairlynch Coffee Time Talk in the Peter Hall : 'Admiral Preedy' by Trevor Waddington

Tuesday 9th. 2.30 pm : Mother's Union talk by Andrew Kingsnorth - 'Theatre of the World'

Thursday 11th 12.15 pm : Loaves & Fishes lunch, Peter Hall. Book with Fran, or Mary Jones on 443333 by six days in advance . Cost £10.

Saturday 20th. Exeter Temple Salvation Army Band concert (see elsewhere for details)

Sunday 13th 6 pm : Choral Evensong

Thursday 18th 8.45 am : Men's Breakfast, Seachange. Book on 443333 three days in advance

Friday 26th 9 am - 1 pm : Food Market and Craft Fair in the Public Hall

Sunday 28th : Stewardship Sunday (See elsewhere for further information)

Sunday 28th 12.15 pm : Solos Lunch. Book with Fran by the previous Wednesday

Sunday 28th 6 pm : Sundays at Six concert. Jean-René André, (See elsewhere for details)

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 second Sunday

Wednesdays Holy Communion at 9.30 am

For services at the other RMC churches see 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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Deputy Wardens: Judith Stewart-Young 442197 George Maddaford 446077

Pat Rogers 446304 Eileen Milne 446725

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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

To join the Mini-Mag email list, please send your address to Lizzy Doorbar at doorbars@btinternet.com

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