

SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG



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

January 2024

Editor: Lizzy Doorbar

A MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES



Dear Friends,

The decorations are down. The tree is now atop a pile of others in Lime Kiln car park and the Christmas celebrations already seem like a distant memory. A new year and a new start is what we all hope for but when we look out of the window at the grey skies and turn on the TV news, nothing has changed. Wars are still raging, natural disasters are still happening, and our financial position is exactly the same as it always was, only worse because of our overspend in December.

What we really need is to be the change that we are looking for ourselves. Nations, peoples, religions, cultures are all made up of individual human beings and a very old Christian prayer goes something like, "Dear Lord, change the world for the better and start with me".

I suppose that is the basis for the practice of making new year resolutions, but we are all aware that these are very hard to keep and fall away quite quickly. That is because they all usually are concerned with our habits that we want to change but we lack the motivation to keep going with all these resolutions.

Of course, as a believer you can call on help from the divine Spirit to help you make the change by starting from the inside out. Changing physical habits starts by changing your spiritual outlook. This is what Alcoholics Anonymous noticed and acted upon many years ago.

Once you understand that you are not on your own and have a helper infinitely more insightful, wise and powerful than yourself, this gives you the moral strength to make the outward changes that are needful according to God's priorities and not your own.

His priorities for yourself are that you grow in all the virtues collectively known as the fruits of the Spirit. They are many and various but Saint Paul helpfully lists the priorities he has for you. "By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things."

Happy New Year,

Martin

Big Christmas 100 Club Draw

The winners were: £5: Jeremy Browne

£10: David Andrews

£20: Judy Salmon

£30: Judith Stuart-Young

£50: Penny Franklin

£100: Martin Jacques

Only a year to go until the next Big Draw!

Fiona Hennah

A message from our new Webmaster ! Hi everyone! I'm really looking forward to taking over the RMC website - I hope I can be as efficient as Lucinda!! If anyone has anything they want included or changed on the website, please do email me - staceyjames1@gmail.com and I'll do my best. *Stacey James*

A Little Something

I'm starting the New Year with a big Little Something. Have you ever read the Bible from cover to cover or chronologically? Now I'm retired I read the Bible from cover to cover between Christmas and Easter Day; it's one of the things I do for Lent but Lent for me has to start early so I can complete the challenge! Have you ever read the Bible in one year? There are many resources online to help you, just search 'read the Bible in one year,' you will find apps and even audio. 'The Bible' with Nicky and Pippa Gumbel gives a commentary as well to help you understand what you are reading. The Gumbels say, that reading the Bible is simple, relevant and life-changing, why not try it this year? *Jean Burrows*

Mothers' Union

Our December meeting was an enjoyable informal one when we shared favourite readings, reminiscences and poems and also singing favourite carols interspersed with jokes! Refreshments followed including mince pies. Many thanks to Jenny for playing the piano for us. The next event is our New Year's lunch Tuesday 9 January 2024 12.45 at the Peter Hall. Tickets are £13 from Sue Low telephone number 443527 (or see her in church on Sunday). *Rosemary Baker*

Open the Book

We finished a term of Old Testament stories with the Nativity but don't look too closely at the ages of Mary and Joseph! We also had a Christmas tree in Temple's Christmas Tree Festival. All our three schools drew beautiful pictures of some of our stories or made decorations highlighting some key words such as forgiveness, love or trust. What came across was how much the children enjoy 'Open the Book' and how memorable it is for them. *Jean Burrows*



Pastoral Care in the Raleigh Mission Community

At the present time we have 14 members in our Pastoral Care Team. We meet bi-monthly in the Peter Hall, usually on a Monday afternoon. We have a visiting list of people who are known to us, the majority being housebound. The number of people on our list fluctuates throughout the year. We try to make sure that Communion is offered to the nursing homes on a monthly basis and I am very grateful to those who so ably and willingly provide this. The Chaplaincy team at the RD&E are very quick to respond whenever asked to visit any of our parishioners who have become a patient at the hospital. Our aim as a team is to ensure that all those unable to come to church know they are not forgotten. We each have one or two people we try to visit at least once a month, but sometimes hearing a friendly voice over the phone can make a difference to someone's day. The purpose of meeting together is to support one another and is an opportunity to catch up on everyone's welfare.

I appreciate there are others within the RMC who provide pastoral care in a variety of ways without being part of our team. We also value the support of those who regularly pray for us. If you feel you might wish to join our team, then please contact me and I can give you a better idea of what is involved. 01385 443133 *Jenny Steele*

FunFaith – our most recent session about Christmas

The children learnt the true meaning of Christmas by hearing the story of Jesus' birth! This was done by a game of 'Bingo' so while listening to the story, they had to tick off any characters/features they heard about. That was lots of fun! For our crafts we had Christmas biscuit decorating, a stained-glass nativity stable scene tree decoration, lollipop wise men and angel doilies!

To finish, we played pass the parcel and went into church to see everyone where we were treated to Poppy playing 'Hark The Herald Angels Sing' on her violin - amazing! *Stacey James*

The PCC Budget

The PCC has approved a budget for the year 2024 which would result in a financial loss for St Peter's of £26,335. This would substantially eat further into our diminishing reserves. Planned Giving is included in the budget at 2023 levels. The Diocesan parish contribution in the budget of £94,609 is in line with the figure quoted by the Diocese. The Diocesan contribution which pays for the training, salaries, pensions and housing of clergy makes up about 47% of the whole of our costs for a year. The charge is based on the number of adults who regularly attend our church services (Participants).

Although efforts will be made to restrict costs and increase fundraising the church is very heavily dependent on Planned Giving from the congregation which has reduced in recent years. During 2024 the regular congregation will be asked to review their level of giving in order to avoid the budgeted level of losses and to help to return our church's finances to a sustainable level. The £26,355 deficit would be eliminated if each Participant increased their giving by £2.50 per week plus gift aid (£5 per couple).

Tony Gray PCC Treasurer

A Big Thank You...

... goes to all the people who made our worship and fellowship over Christmas so profound and meaningful. To our esteemed Director of Music, Stephen Tanner and our talented choir for the superb music that enhanced our services (three Sunday evenings in a row, and that was before we got to Christmas Eve!). Also the wonderful people who organised so many events, the Christmas Fair which raised a stunning £1270 for the Friends of St Peter's, the Candlelight supper, the mulled wine and mince pies after the Carol Service. Those who made all the Christingles which benefit the Children's Society, and met the challenge of being a steward at that amazing service, and many, many more. Thank you to you all, your time, efforts and talents really are appreciated.

Editor Lizzy



People in our church – Jean Burrows

Jean, pictured here in her beloved Tanzania, has returned to her Devon roots, having been born in Exeter, but she moved with her family to Merton in south west London at the age of seven. She trained to be a teacher in Canterbury, specialising in PE for 9 – 13 year olds. Her first job was in a school in Essex, and during her time there, she had a strong sense of being called to full time Christian ministry.

She spent two years at Trinity Theological College in Bristol, was ordained deacon in 1991 and was then one of the first women to be ordained priest in April 1994. She worked as a curate in Coventry, an assistant priest in Bishops Stortford and vicar in three rural villages in North Bedfordshire. At this time she was also the URC Minister for a year alongside being the Anglican Minister – being heavily involved in the Local Ecumenical Project. Jean was blessed with a very positive outlook, as in each of these places she found good things going on in the churches, and good friends too!

Later she moved back to the Canterbury area to be vicar of three villages, and again had a good experience, but she decided to retire in 2021. She had always dreamed of living by the sea. One sister lives near Honiton, so Jean decided to investigate the sea within reach of Honiton. She describes parking in Budleigh, walking down to the beach, and promptly falling in love with Budleigh! A priest who retires must not officiate for six months, and after that period Jean obtained her PtO (Permission to Officiate) from the diocese. Jean has a lot of Churches Together experience and is keen to develop links with other local churches. This has begun through Open the Book and the Prayer Vigils for Israel and Palestine.

Jean made her first visit to Tanzania during a sabbatical, organised by CMS. Since then she has been back four more times, and hopes to go again next year. Her feelings about Tanzania and Africa can be summed up in the quote: 'A returning short-term missionary said he didn't know if he was returning home or leaving home . . . it is like having a foot in two worlds and longing for one while being physically present in the other.' (Francine Marie Thomas, The Road to Kondo)

Jean says her best holiday, apart from Tanzania and Zanzibar, was a trip down the Nile. She is a volunteer at the Information Centre and is interested in all kinds of 'crafty' things; in her sitting room there is a beautiful cross stitch picture of an angel, made by Jean, and she is learning to do both wet and dry felting.

With all her skills and experience in Christian ministry amongst adults and children, we are indeed blessed that Jean chose Budleigh!

Editor Lizzy

Just a reminder: I put the regular church events into the diary dates, but for anything else I rely on other people to let me know what is going on. If you would like your event publicised, please let me know and I will gladly include information about it where possible. Thank you to those people who do contact me about events! *Editor Lizzy*

After the successful visit last March of **The Exeter Temple Salvation Army Band**, they have agreed to come again, with the Songsters, on **SATURDAY 20TH APRIL 2024**. So, book that date on your calendars, and see their tambourines in action.

Malcolm Jones

DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

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

Tuesday 9th 12.45 pm: Mothers' Union - New Year's lunch (see elsewhere for details)

Tuesday 9th 5.30 pm: Julian Group at 7 Exmouth Road, Budleigh EX9 4AF

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.

Sunday 14th 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 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 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

revmartinjacques@gmail.com (not Fridays)

RMC Administrator: Fran Mills raleighmc@gmail.com Working at home Mon, Tues, Thurs 9 - 1 07880 331465

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

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 Lizzy by 20th of the month. The earlier I receive your piece, the greater the chance of it finding space in the Mini-Mag!