

# SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG



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

October 2024

Editor: Lizzy Doorbar

## A MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES



Dear Friends,

October is traditionally the time for Harvest festival celebrations in churches. It is a time which is so ubiquitous in Britain that we imagine it has been going for centuries, but in this country it is actually an innovation of a Cornish vicar in 1843, and has just grown and become popularised and sort of stuck ever since. Pre-dating the church service was the harvest supper, for everyone involved in the Harvest. This still continues alongside the service in many churches and communities.

But although a Victorian innovation in this country, celebrating the Harvest is probably one of the most ancient traditions in the world dating back to the ancient Egyptians and Hebrews in the near East and all ancient peoples. As soon as people started to settle down and raise crops, which was always a risky weather-dependent operation, getting the harvest safely in was truly a thing to celebrate.

Nowadays, most people live lives almost completely divorced from the land but there has been a growing consciousness amongst a lot of people over recent decades that we owe the natural world our enormous thanks and we rely on it entirely for everything we eat and drink.

This has led to a whole eco-consciousness that is very popular in tandem with a raised consciousness of environmental issues.

This Green consciousness is mostly naturalistic and sees the earth as a self-contained self-perpetuating entity with us pesky humans as a contaminant. But human beings are natural too – we are in the words of the Bible to be “good stewards” of the world and its resources. Christians would see God as the author of all life, the creator of all that is, so it is to God that we offer thanks for all that has provided us.

In that context, the humble tin of spaghetti offered at a Harvest festival is symbolic of our collective thanks for the natural world we live in, a tradition that goes back for thousands of years.

Love and prayers,

### September 100 Club draw result

Number 51: Anne Marshall (for Aimee) £5      Number 28: Phillip Leat £10  
Number 61 Mark Perry £20      *Fiona Hennah*

## Mothers' Union

Our September meeting was a big success when our very own Kay Hassell held us spellbound speaking on "Adventures in and out of the Classroom." One of the audience said she could listen all day to Kay. Many thanks Kay! Our next meeting is Tuesday October 8th when Susan Graham will be speaking on "Lace Making with Demonstration". All welcome.

*Rosemary Baker*



## Open the Book

This was our first presentation of the new school year. We were warmly welcomed by the staff at all three schools and the children were delighted to see us and eager as ever to join the cast. The story was Ruth & Naomi. We were short on numbers in our team but we did our best to make sure that the meaning was clear. *Jenny Steele*

## News from St Peter's C of E Primary School

Parents at St Peter's school are signing up to the Smartphone Free Pledge, joining other school families who agree to delay giving their children a smartphone until after primary school.

By being part of the growing national movement, Smartphone Free Childhood (SFC) Parent Pact, St Peter's school is working towards a culture shift around when children are given smartphones, to protect students from the addictive and harmful designs often found in smartphones.

The SFC Parent Pact encourages families to delay giving smartphones to their children until at least the end of Year 9 (aged 14). However, based on feedback from the school community, it has been **decided that a pledge specific to delaying smartphones in primary school was the best fit for St. Peter's**. In fact, 92% of responses supported a Smartphone Free Pledge for primary school children, and 64% of respondents were also in favour of delaying until age 14.

The pledge is not legally binding, and families will have the chance each year to reconsider and re-confirm their commitment. It is also recognized that the pledge may not be the right fit for every family or child. It is understood that every parent is doing what they believe is best for their children when it comes to smartphone use. Regardless of whether or not parents make the pledge, the school aims to provide resources, information, and support to all members of the St. Peter's community as their children begin navigating their online lives.

*I am delighted that Andrew Kingsnorth, who is a governor at St Peter's School, will give us regular updates on school life*

## A Little Something

Hawa is wonderful: she works very hard, washes, cooks and cleans for me as well as fetching my drinking water and trying to teach me Kiswahili. She is great fun, very good at miming and has a little English. She's worked for the college for thirty years but she's paid a pittance, about £3.50 a week. To supplement her income, at night, she makes mandazi (a sort of doughnut) and chapattis which she sells to the students. She told me about someone who used to work in the college mess for the same wage but then got a job in a Roman Catholic hotel in town, he was paid about five times more. I asked Howa why she didn't change jobs, 'It's for the church,' she said, that spoke volumes to me about her Christian commitment.

*Jean Burrows from Tanzania*



## Men's Breakfast

This started in July 2018 with friends from St Peter's Church and others from our local community, meeting every third Thursday of the month at 8.45am for breakfast and conversation/local news. It began at the Community Hub with up to twenty men sitting at a long table, then moved to a large marquee outside with bacon butties during Covid restrictions, followed by a stint at the Dolphin Café, then finally back to Seachange in its current formula of smaller tables of four.

There is no membership or need to be there every month, but people are requested to let Malcolm know if they are coming 72 hours ahead so that he can advise the chef and his team of numbers attending. People are encouraged to sit with different people each month, to meet new people in the community and exchange news and views.

*Malcolm Jones* Tel: 01395 443333 or Mobile: 07957 831345

## People in our church: David Hassell

David's parents were born in the late Victorian period, and he and his three younger siblings grew up in London. David was born in 1925, and at the age of four was sent to the local state Infant's school, which he detested. He remembers clutching a tin of biscuits as the only link to the safety of home. At the age of six David's parents sent him to his Aunt Daisy's school, a kindergarten based on Froebel and Montessori principles. This was heaven for David! David said she opened many windows for us as youngsters. It was a lengthy and awkward journey by public transport, so David's father bought a car, a Morris Ten, obtained a licence and learned to drive. Soon David's mother did the same – clearly she was a feisty lady! David said that his parents' greatest gift to him was their faith and sense of God's guidance, which has stayed with him throughout his life.

The family moved to Hampstead Garden Suburb in 1933, but continued to attend the church at Crouch End which was a car journey away. After lunch the family took a second car journey to go to Sunday School. David's father taught the teenagers but David suffered very indifferent teaching from another teacher, so he rebelled and hid in the long grass in the field behind the house until the car had to leave. David never went back to Sunday School, and his parents did not force him to go.

At the age of 17 David registered for the Royal Navy and later he worked as a coder, who coded and de-coded messages on board ship. David spent D-Day at Fratton Goods Yard, loading and unloading goods onto lorries on their way to Portsmouth Dockyard. All the while David was desperate to go to sea. In due course he served on the Infantry Landing Ship *HMS Queen Emma*, and took part in the invasion which began in the following August and lasted for several months. After the war David went to Oriel College at Oxford University to read French Language and Literature and Philology (the science of language). He had an excellent time, and took up rowing in an 'eight' – very health-giving!

David's parents had been very involved in the Oxford Group, which later adopted the name Moral Re-Armament. This was a group which promoted trust among former enemies, based on changes in individual motivation and character. David has been very involved in this group over many years, including working on turning a hotel in Switzerland into a conference centre for the Group, and has made 25 visits there. The group is now known as Initiatives of Change.

David became a teacher of English and French in a variety of schools and also taught English as a Foreign Language. This was at the Hampstead Garden Suburb Institute, and his students were mainly young European and Asian people who wanted to learn English in order to obtain work. David has been very involved in a magazine about education called *Polestar*, as a contributor and member of the editorial team.

David has always been close to his siblings, and when in Hampstead Garden Suburb, David and his sister Kay had a joint mortgage in order to buy a house. Their brother Peter bought a house in Fountain Hill in Budleigh, which is how David and Kay discovered Budleigh. They are tremendously good friends with their siblings! While staying with Peter on holiday, David and Kay came to St Peter's in Budleigh, and now feel the congregation is very supportive and comforting. David appreciates the sermons and the writing of Martin Jacques. Both David and Kay are on the rota for reading the lesson. Having lived near Winchester for a while, David and Kay now live in a Home in Exmouth which means they can easily see Peter and Liz, their other siblings.



## St Peter's PCC Meeting on Tuesday 17th September 2024

During a well attended meeting a discussion took place about protecting the assets of the church from theft following the vindictive dismantling of the votive candle holder to access the small amount of change contained within. It is likely that an audit of keys to the premises will take place to ensure that all those keys in circulation are accounted for.

As well as looking at the church finances, always a thorny subject, and the disappointing results from the recent gift day, a discussion took place on ways to boost church income - any ideas gratefully accepted.

Finally the PCC considered ways to reduce the use of single use plastic within our mission. This will be an ongoing project in line with exploring other ways of mitigating the climate emergency.

*Fran Mills, Secretary of the PCC*

### DIARY DATES FOR OCTOBER

*Tuesday 1st 9.30 am : St Peter's Prayer Group in the Lady Chapel*

*Sunday 6th Harvest Lunch in the Peter Hall. Tickets £12.50 from Fran or Christine Channon*

*Tuesday 8th 2.30 pm : Mother's Union : Susan Graham on Lace Making (details elsewhere)*

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

*Sunday 13th 6 pm : Choral Evensong*

*Thursday 19th 8.45 am : Men's Breakfast, Seachange. Book on 443333 three days in advance*

*Sunday 27th 12.30 pm : Solos Lunch. Book with Fran by the previous Wednesday or Christine Channon on 442927*

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

### QUICK CONTACTS

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

[revmartinjacques@gmail.com](mailto:revmartinjacques@gmail.com) (not Fridays)

**RMC Administrator: Fran Mills [raleighmc@gmail.com](mailto: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](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 me by 20th of the month. The earlier I receive your piece, the greater the chance of it finding space in the Mini-Mag!