

# SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG

St Peter's Church

The Lawn

Budleigh Salterton EX9 6LT



## January 2026

Editor: Lizzy Doorbar

A MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES



Dear Friends,

January is a cold and dark month, so perhaps we need something to brighten it up? It is a curious fact that secular culture pre-loads the Christmas season, so we are singing carols in November – so that when we get to Christmas day we are emotionally, physically and sometimes financially spent. Whereas, in the church the Christmas season only starts on Christmas Day and goes on all the way through January and finishes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February with the celebration known as Candlemas.

Along the way we celebrate Epiphany which is one of my favourite Christian festivals. It poses the question that if we are making such a huge meal out of Christmas, what then does it actually mean and does that make an impact on my life?

This where the Magi, otherwise known as the three wise men or the three kings come in – not strictly part of the nativity scene at all, but now eternally co-opted to the Christmas cause. The Magi, using their Persian untranslated titles, were Zoroastrian priests from Persia (from the East), who were also experts in astronomy and astrology. Even more mind-blowing they were also looking for a messiah born of a virgin.

They brought gifts that weren't chosen randomly from an Argos catalogue but had true significance. Gold told us that this child was to be a king. Frankincense tells us that Jesus will have a priestly function which means he will act as a kind of mediator between mankind and God. Finally, we come to Myrrh. A strange word, but it is a spice used for anointing dead bodies and it tells us that the death of Jesus will be significant.

Yes, it may be cold and dark outside, but we are kept warm and intellectually and spiritually stimulated throughout it all in the churches.

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

### The Square Circle Knitting Group

The Square Circle Knitting Group, although based in All Saints Church Hall where we meet every Wednesday afternoon, includes knitters from all three churches in the Raleigh Mission Community. Since August this year, we have donated the following items to CR2EE (Christian Response to Eastern Europe) – 20 blankets, 19 pairs of socks, 33 pairs of mittens, 10 hats, 9 scarves and 7 jumpers.

Thank you to all our knitters – those who come to our sessions and those who contribute from their own homes. We hope these knitted items will help to sustain the communities of Moldova and Ukraine during their long and bitter winter weather.

*Sue Low*

### December 100 Club results

Doris Godfrey £5, Ann Marshall (for Aimee) £10, Lizzy Doorbar ( for Percival) £20,  
Ann Marshall (for Sam) £30, Vicky Robinson £50, Stephen Blyth ( our youngest Crucifer) £100.

I shall be selling tickets for the 2026 draws after the 10am services on Sundays. Be sure to buy yours in time for the first draw on January 4th!

*Fiona Hennah*

### Exmouth Choral Society concert on Saturday 24th January

The choir will be performing Handel's wonderful Messiah, at 7 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Exmouth. The concert will be conducted by our musical director, Matthew Jeffrey. Tickets are £16 if bought online from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/exmouthchoral](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/exmouthchoral) or £17 on the door.

*Lizzy Doorbar*

### St Peter's PCC Meeting in December

Rev'd Martin announced his retirement. This message of course dominated proceedings other business included a discussion regarding the payment of the Common Fund which has increased this year. The payment required of St Peter's not only covers the Ministerial expenses at St Peter's but also supports other churches in the Diocese who are unable to make a contribution. While it is of course recognised that it is our Christian duty to help others less fortunate it does put a financial strain on St Peter's, so any contributions or support of fund raising efforts will be gratefully received. Car park permits are now available for 2026 at a cost of £83.

Support for charities and good causes will be made from retiring collections which will be notified in advance in the pewsheets. Rental for the hall & the church will also be slightly adjusted. The next fundraising event for St Peter's Church will be a Quiz & Curry night on 24th January in the Peter Hall. *Fran Mills, PCC Secretary*

### Mothers' Union December meeting

Despite appalling weather, we had a pre Christmas celebration. We enjoyed singing carols interspersed with readings, many amusing and happy reminiscences back to Joyce Grenfell and others. Also a meditation on See amid the winter's Snow. Our singing was greatly improved by being accompanied by Barry Laver. The New Year lunch will be on January 13th instead of a meeting. *Alison Newson*

### The Christmas Fayre 2025

This was an enjoyable event with a steady flow of customers. There were eight stalls and the amounts made were:- Cakes £108, Bottle stall £91, Books & puzzles £49, Red stall & Plants £95.48, Bric-a-Brac £91.15, Preserves £178.50, Mulled Wine £102.50, Raffle £149, Coffee £32.50 and Door £30. Donations £155. This made a Grand Total of £1155. Congratulations and many thanks to all. *Iris Cooper*

### A little something

I wonder how many of us stayed up to see the New Year in and do you have your own special traditions? January is thought to be named after the Roman god Janus who had two faces, one looked back and the other looked forward, so he stands astride the past and the future. The word Janus comes from the Latin for doorway and it's where we get the word 'janitor' from which originally referred to a door attendant. Doors are important in the Bible, perhaps the most well-known is in Revelation 3:20 immortalised in Holman Hunt's painting 'The Light of the World.' Christ stands knocking at the door of our hearts but that door can only be opened by us from the inside. Jesus never forces his way into our lives, the invitation is there, the response is ours. *Jean Burrows*

### From Bishop Martin Gordon, Democratic Republic of Congo

The Diocese of Goma runs over 100 schools with more than 25,000 students. Education is a core part of our ministry but running schools is a huge challenge, often with little or no help from the government. Twenty schools are currently closed due to the on-going conflict. A few have been hit by bombs. Others are used as bases by the Congolese army. Doors and windows have been stolen and desks used as firewood. We have recently rebuilt several schools. All this is testimony that The Anglican Church in Walikale brings the Word of God and education to rural communities. *Andrew Kingsnorth, Mission Representative*

### Loaves and Fishes

The Loaves and Fishes Lunch group held their Christmas Lunch on 11th December in the Peter Hall. We enjoyed Mandy's Christmas Pie and Panettone Pudding, finishing with coffee and a raffle, plus Chocolate Oranges to take home. Tesco very kindly donated a basket of their seasonal products for the Raffle.

*Mary Jones*



### Open the Book



We finished the term with the Christmas story. We had some children dressed as shepherds ably kept in order by Pat and we had whole school participation with ‘Good news!’ (said enthusiastically and joyfully) and ‘Bad news’ (said glumly). Despite being close to Christmas the children were still very well behaved and attentive. The photo shows Tricia as narrator, Pat as chief shepherd, Heather and Rick as Mary and Joseph, Hazel as the angel, Mark and Nicky as Mr and Mrs Innkeeper and I was in charge of the audience participation cue cards. We look forward to next term and stories about Jesus.

*Jean Burrows*

### Retirement of Reverend Martin Jacques

My last service in St. Peter’s will be Easter Sunday which is on April 5th. I acknowledge that I owe the church an enormous debt of gratitude and have always served whatever congregation I have been privileged to be their priest with a sense of profound duty and love.

It has been a pleasure to be your vicar and while nobody is perfect, I have always tried to serve with integrity, doing the best I can. I have been honoured to work with my administrator Fran Mills who has been wonderful and worked with a dedicated collection of retired priests who have, and am I am sure will continue to offer their services until the church decides to appoint a successor. I also want to thank all wardens and church officers past and present and PCC members – it has been a pleasure to work with you all.

I wish everyone well and as I am only retiring to Sidmouth, I expect I’ll continue to bump into one or two of you after April next year. If so, mine’s a glass of red, unless its lunchtime when it’s a glass of white. Naturally I will not be starting anything new or making any decisions that my successor will have to deal with or engaging with anything that will have to be sustained after I’ve gone. So may God bless you all.

*Martin Jacques*

### People in our church – Canon Ken Parry

Ken was born in Warwickshire and went to Bangor in North Wales during the war, to live with his grandparents. The lessons at school were all in Welsh, so Ken learned the language. Ken did National Service in the army, where he ‘stumbled across’ his vocation, with the help of the padre.

Ken spent three years at Ripon Hall, Oxford, studying theology. As a curate in Coventry his particular job was as chaplain to a Displaced Person’s Hostel. The people were mainly Eastern Europeans who had come to England in 1945, and were still here thirteen years on, unable to return home due to the Cold War. These were difficult times. After a further year he was ordained Priest in the, as yet unfinished, Coventry Cathedral. Four weeks before his ordination, Ken and Barbara were married.

Ken ran a youth club and organised a talk by a naval officer, hoping that some of the young people would join the navy as a result. There was actually only one person who was interested in that route, and that person was Ken. At the age of 26 he was accepted by the Admiralty to become a naval chaplain.

Ken served with the Royal Marines, which meant he had to go to Lympstone to do the commando course in order to get the green beret – this was a fairly challenging experience! First he was sent to 45 Commando RM in Aden, Yemen, where the work interesting, despite tribal unrest in the desert or mountain areas. Ken knew that Barbara would not be able to join him – however she went to a cocktail party and met an admiral, who enabled her and their two children to get a lift on a Royal Fleet Auxiliary, a huge tanker. Barbara was very enterprising! So she enjoyed four weeks in the sunshine of the Red Sea area.

A year followed with the family together at Royal Naval Airstation Culdrose in Cornwall. Ken realised that the next promotion would involve being away at sea for eighteen months, which would not fit well with family arrangements. Therefore he left the navy and was offered a lovely parish in the Black Country near Dudley, where the family stayed for eight years. Ken had loved the navy but didn’t regret leaving, because he also loved parish life. The next parish was Holy Trinity in Malvern where the family, now four children, stayed for fourteen years; Ken and Barbara wanted the children to feel settled, which they duly did.



In 1983 it was time for a move, and Ken saw an advertisement for a vicar in Budleigh Salterton. Ken had never been here, but had seen the name on a road sign when doing his commando course at Lympstone. Ken was interviewed by Lord Clinton, who said he would like to offer him the job. Ken said there is one problem – I have a horse. Lord Clinton said that was not a problem, because the vicarage (on West Hill) has a stable, and grazing could be arranged at Jack Gooding's farm!

A significant achievement while in Budleigh was sourcing the chamber organ from Worcester Cathedral – Ken learned through his connections with Worcester that the chamber organ was due to be sold to somewhere in Texas; but as you will know, it came to St Peter's. Logistical and financial problems were overcome, and we are indeed fortunate to have such a splendid organ in our church, built by Michael Farley.

After eight happy years in Budleigh, Ken went to Exeter Cathedral as Canon Precentor, to live in a beautiful house in the Close. Ken missed parish life a lot, but it was a privilege to worship in such wonderful surroundings. Ken and Barbara discovered that many homeless people gravitated to The Close, and they joined with others in setting up St Petrock's, a charity based in the Close to help homeless people.

In 2000, Ken retired and he and Barbara moved to Kennford. However Crediton needed an acting rector, so Ken was happy to return to parish life four days a week for a year! Very sadly, Barbara developed dementia and died two years ago. Ken stayed in Kennford for a while, but a year ago chose to come back to Budleigh, which has been a good move for him.

Please remember the **Library Consultation**; the form needs to be completed by 22nd February. I am sure many of us have filled the form in – more information from Budleigh Salterton Library.

### DIARY DATES FOR JANUARY

Monday 5th 2.30 onwards, coffee afternoon at Bay Court

Tuesday 6th : St Peter's Prayer Group in the Lady Chapel

Thursday 8th 12.15 pm : Loaves and Fishes lunch, Peter Hall. Book with Fran, or Mary Jones on 443333 by six days in advance. Cost £10

Sunday 11th 6 pm : Choral Evensong

Tuesday 13th: Mother's Union – New Year's Lunch

Thursday 15th 8.45 am : Men's Breakfast, Wesley's (Methodist Church Hall). Book with Malcolm Jones on 443333 by three days in advance

Saturday 24th : Quiz and curry night, in aid of church funds, Peter Hall

Sunday 25th 12.30 pm : Solos Lunch. Book with Fran 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)

### CONTACTS (landlines all begin with 01395)

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**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 :** Stephen Tanner. 07804 209226.      **Peter Hall Manager :** George Maddaford 446077

**St Peter's Burial Ground :** Milena McClennan. 445366.      **Safeguarding Rep:** Tina Ellett. 07426 090311

**Friends of St Peter's :** Co-ordinator Tony Gray 444006

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 the 20th of the month.