

SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG

St Peter's Church

The Lawn

Budleigh Salterton EX9 6LT



Editor: Lizzy Doorbar

September 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES



Dear Friends,

I was reading a book of poetry the other day which is unusual for me, but I suppose I was subconsciously looking for something that would connect with my weathered care-worn soul. Like a lot of people, I am naturally melancholic, and reading lots of uplifting life affirming stuff can just irritate me. But sad, melancholy stuff really resonates and moves my soul.

Melancholy (not depression) is a state, I think, of seeing quite clearly, almost too clearly the deep flaws, contradictions and compromises of life and accepting them, almost relishing them. Empathizing with the pain of the world we live in is a part, and necessary part, of being Christian. – it is written into the narrative. We worship a crucified saviour after all – how could it not be?

I came across the famous poem by Stevie Smith which concludes with the lines, “I was much too far out all my life and not waving but drowning”. I am not talking about the “big” stuff here like poverty, war, bombings or oppression, though of course they are all there, just the quiet desperation of millions of ordinary men and women enduring secret hurts, wounds, regrets and stoically accepting hopelessness as a part of life.

I was one of those people and I can often still feel that way sometimes, but I found the balm for my soul in the crucified God of the Christian religion.

It speaks of a God who knows suffering and the depths of hopelessness “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” questioned Jesus hanging from the cross.

If, in communion we are at one with all creation when we receive the bread, we are equally at one with all pain and suffering when we drink wine from the cup. “Can you drink the cup?” asked Jesus.

September is traditionally a month given over to melancholy – the summer has passed and comes before the harshness of winter and eventually the promise of Spring. Yes, Christianity is a religion that joyously celebrates Christ's victory over suffering and death – but suffering and death had to come first. We can try as hard as we like, but we cannot have one without the other.

Love and Peace,

August 100 Club results

No 79 Jeremy Browne £5. No 71 Christine Mitchel £10. No 6 Joanna Knott £20
Congratulations, and thank you for supporting our church! *Fiona Hennah*

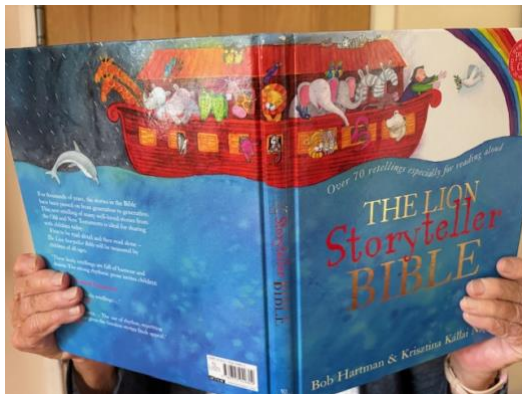
This is your new-look Mini-Mag – not of my choosing! I won't bore you with the details, but printing, computers talking to each other, which fonts are supported as PDFs, have all caused immense problems. Thank you to Fran for printing many test versions, and after long conversations with Apple support, I fervently hope this format will work for us!

Editor Lizzy

Salterton Drama Club

Our next production is "Tell-Tale Murder" by Phillip Weathers from Monday 1st September to Saturday 6th September. This is a gripping story set in Cornwall with long-buried secrets coming to light. Tickets £14.00 are on sale through our website; Ticket Source or the Budleigh Information Centre. In addition, there is a musical evening event on 12th September when the Plum Jam Band perform a wide range of swing, blues, jazz & pop.

Judith Stewart-Young



Open the Book

As the Summer holidays come to an end, our two Open the Book teams are rested, refreshed and raring to return to our three Primary Schools. This term we are going back to the beginning of the Bible with six stories from the Book of Genesis, followed by the Christmas story in December. There will be some challenges along the way so please continue to remember us in your prayers.

Hazel Harland

News from Bishop Martin Gordon in the Democratic Republic of Congo

What I do: peace-making, church planting and building up the body of Christ as part of my role as Bishop of Goma. Empowering people pushed to the edges of life to release their God-given potential. My colleagues in DR Congo are offering trauma support to children impacted by conflict, which is now under control.

This year for the first time in over 5 years all clergy from across the diocese were together in the cathedral. We met to celebrate the retirement of Archdeacon of Goma, Venerable Canon John Muiuna, who has completed 49 years of pastoral ministry. The week ended with the gift of a motorbike to each of our archdeacons, courtesy of the Diocese of Nairobi and a generous parish in Jersey.

At St Peter's, we support Wendy and Yong from Interserve, and Bishop Martin through the Church Missionary Society (CMS). Andrew Kingsnorth, Mission Rep, will send us news from each in alternate months.

A little something from south of the equator

There are many cultural differences between here and the UK. For instance, there is no 'ladies first' rule and if you want to beckon someone to you it's palm down not palm up. I discovered something else after a very long staff meeting looking at last year's students' reports - there is hardly any encouragement given. The best a student could hope for was to be recommended to proceed to next year's class. In class I'm always giving encouragement and I think children in the UK are raised on encouragement and praise. It's not just children and students who benefit from encouragement, we all do, and we are all called to follow Barnabas (the son of encouragement) and encourage others. It can be done quietly, perhaps spoken or written, but it builds up and strengthens individuals and our community.

Jean Burrows

Colin Randall is celebrating 50 years of ordination on Sunday 28th September, which is Michaelmas. He would be delighted if people felt able to join him as he preaches and presides at the 10 am Parish Communion (and the 8 am Communion) at St Peter's on that day.

[This month's Big Thank you goes to everyone who organises our Sunday refreshments](#)

Every Sunday, after the 10 o'clock service, many of us enjoy the tea and coffee and good conversation. Of course it doesn't just happen – there is a rota to be put together, and wonderful people set up the tables and chairs, ensure we have sufficient supplies, clear up afterwards, and most importantly, serve us our welcome drinks with a smile! So thank you very much to everyone involved; I know it is really appreciated by many of us.

Editor Lizzy

[People in our church : Colin Randall](#)

Fifty years ago this month Colin was ordained, so it seems very appropriate to celebrate that fifty years of service with a profile in the Mini-Mag! Colin was born in Germany and grew up in Bedford, where he had a happy childhood growing up in a church-going household with two younger brothers. After school he went to Aston University to train to be an environmental health inspector. Part-way through the course someone said to Colin, 'you ought to be ordained'; so after a year of testing out God's call, he went to theological college; Queen's College in Birmingham.



The college was ecumenical; half Methodist and half Anglican. Colin's parents were delighted – his father said, 'it's been your mother's prayer for years that one of you would be ordained'. Colin loved the course, which included a wide range of practical placements from hospitals and the Samaritans, to a month's residential in a parish. Methodist deaconesses were also trained at the college, including Colin's future wife, Jude. They were married half-way through the second year.

After finishing training, Colin and Jude went to Manchester, Colin working as a curate with a brilliant priest. Unfortunately, Jude's posting did not work out, so she became a Social Worker for the rest of her career. However, they needed to move closer to Colin's and Jude's parents, who were both living in the south-west, so they moved to Bridgwater – a battered estate with many social problems, such as domestic violence and mental illness. Colin loved the role, even though it was very challenging at times.

Colin and Jude's son Nicholas was born just before they left Manchester, and daughter Lucy was born while they were in Bridgwater. After seven years in Bridgwater Colin was asked by the Archdeacon to consider moving to a parish near Taunton, where part of the job was to be chaplain of St Margaret's Hospice. Both parish and Hospice agreed, and a fulfilling, if exacting, ten years ensued.

Colin then became Team Rector of Wellington. This involved being responsible for several colleagues; while Colin looked after the town centre parish and co-ordinated the remaining twelve parishes covered by the team in surrounding villages. It was important to get the team working together co-operatively and develop the parish. As time went on, the Team began to work properly, the congregation became more confident, and the church retook its place at the heart of the community. Sadly, after too many years of over-work, he had to take early retirement.

In addition to parish duties, Colin was an elected member of General Synod for five years, and for seven years was Chair of the House of Clergy, which included sharing the leadership of the Diocesan Synod. The Bishop also made him an honorary Prebendary of Wells Cathedral. Colin and Jude had bought their flat in Budleigh well before retiring, so moved here thirteen years ago. Colin much enjoys taking occasional services in the RMC.

Birdwatching has been important for Colin since the age of fourteen (and a range of bird books in his study attests to this!). He is currently acting chair of Devon Birds, he and Jude both walk a good deal and grow vegetables in their allotment.

Family is the key to Colin and Jude's lives. There are many visits from and to children and grandchildren, in London and Taunton. If people ask Colin what is the best thing he has done – he says it is having children. 'The other stuff is important, but having children more so.'

FunFaith is coming back on a Sunday in October, November and December. It will run from 10 am to 11.15, with sessions including arts and crafts, fun and games and prayer and praise. It will be suitable for children between the ages of 3 and 11. For more information call Stacey on 07891 482 169, or email at funfaithbudleigh@gmail.com.
Stacey James



Mother's Union

We enjoyed a very happy afternoon at the Dolphin and raised a total of £276. We also had some donations previously so more than £300 will be banked. Thanks to Maggie Tapping for hosting us and to the team who helped. Thank you to everyone who supported us so well.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 9th September 2.30pm in the Peter Hall - speaker - George Hislop RNLI, a collection will be made.
Sue Low

DIARY DATES FOR SEPTEMBER

Monday 1st 2.30 onwards : Bay Court Coffee afternoon
Monday 1st to Saturday 6th : Salterton Drama Club performances (See elsewhere for details)
Tuesday 2nd : St Peter's Prayer Group in the Lady Chapel
Tuesday 9th 2.30 pm : Mother's Union – George Hislop will talk about the RNLI
Thursday 11th 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 14th 6 pm : Choral Evensong
Thursday 18th 8.45 am : Men's Breakfast, Wesley's (Methodist Church Hall). Book with Malcolm Jones on 443333 by three days in advance
Sunday 28th 12.20 pm : Solos Lunch. Book with Fran or Christine Channon on 442927
Sunday 28th : Colin Randall preaches to celebrate 50 years of ordination (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

CONTACTS (landlines all begin with 01395)

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Angie McKenna. 911243

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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

Contributions to the Mini-Mag are most welcome – please send them to me by the 20th of the month.