

SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG



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

FEBRUARY 2022

Editors: Rosemary Humphreys 488524
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A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. D. MARTIN JACQUES



Dear friends,

It is a truth we are all familiar with that when it is often only when it comes to a person's funeral that we find out the most extraordinary things about them.

Even when we thought we knew them quite well, it comes as a surprise when facts emerge like they were a prisoner of the Japanese during WWII, or they lived in Africa as a young woman, or they were a bowls champion or they served in the Arctic convoys, or been decorated by the queen, or had been a champion dog breeder, or loved baking or dancing.

The list is endless. I come up across this repeatedly because I obviously preside at a lot of funerals.

We think we know people because we occasionally have a chat with them, or work with them, or live next door to them but everybody has a hidden side that we don't see and everybody has a vast hinterland of stories, loves, hates, experiences, achievements, joys and fears stretching right back to their youth.

Who knows what secrets the unassuming little old lady at number 22 holds? Is she a poet, a master baker, and what tragedies lurk in her history? People are endlessly fascinating, unique, and surprising.

One also never knows what pain lurks in their personal histories, from unrequited love to lost children to painful accidents.

You never really know people, especially their vast backstories, but these are the episodes that made them who they are today.

Always give people the respect they obviously deserve. We don't know their joys and tragedies, their achievements and failures, and all that is needed to open people up a bit is to get to know them and ask the right questions.

People are endlessly fascinating and the older a person is, the more fascinating and interesting their recollections become because the world has changed so much.

Do it before they leave us or you may only find out about them at their funeral.

Love and peace.

Martin

Louise and I invite you to a Joint Birthday Party at the Vicarage on Saturday 26th February. 'Bring a bottle' and nibbles. 6.00pm – 10.00pm. See the Pew Sheet for latest information.

A Seat at the Table: Engaging Church Members with Science **Wednesday 9th February in St Peter's Church**

You are invited to a meeting to learn more about how you can engage with science in Devon. Speakers from Exeter University will tell you about some of the research going on at Exeter University and what opportunities there are to get involved in the design and delivery of research projects. Your views on research are always welcome! Everyone is welcome. We are advertising in churches around Devon but feel free to invite friends who don't come to church.

Agenda

7.00pm	Refreshments	
7.30pm	Welcome	Rev Martin Jacques
7.40pm	Building bridges and sharing stories, the national context	Rev Justin Tomkins
8.05pm	A flavour of research	Prof Louise Allen
8.25pm	Public Involvement: a seat at the table	Naomi Morley
8.40 pm	Time to chat about what you've heard	All
9.00pm	Questions and answers	Martin and panel

Close

The Diocese of Exeter Reflection February 2022

By 2030, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, there will be more people alive in the world over the age of 60 than under the age of 10. International Development Aid, largely driven by the USA, UK and Germany, has been a remarkable success story, leading to improved life expectancy across the world. However, many developing nations have never had to consider the needs of older people, of pension provision or care for chronic, non-communicable diseases. Additionally, much census information does not break down populations by generation or age group. So the contribution of the older population, whether as childcare providers, economic providers or otherwise, is not known. An older generation has been taken for granted but is not well understood.

Candlemas, the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, celebrated on **2 February**, bucks this trend. According to St Luke, the two who recognise Jesus as the infant Messiah, are older people. **Simeon** is regarded as old, not seeing death before he recognises the Messiah, and **Anna**, a prophet, is aged eighty-four, having devoted herself to the Temple as a widow for many decades. Scruffy shepherds, foreigners, and now two "old faithfuls" of the Temple have seen God present, and at work, in the baby Jesus.

I'm sure that all of us who have experience of parish or church community life have leaned heavily upon older congregants for their wisdom, their "long view," and for a sense of stability in ever-changing times. For me, the meeting of Simeon and Anna with the baby Jesus is one of the most relatable episodes in the Gospels: an older generation embracing and offering a profound insight into a younger generation is instantly recognisable. That's why I really appreciate Candlemas. After a Christmas season aimed so squarely at children, it's an important reminder of the importance, and prophetic ministry, of so many of our older people. Around 30% of Church of England congregants are aged over 69, so there are a great many Annas and Simeons in our midst! By 2030, along with the global population, that proportion will likely be higher.

St Matthew reminds us, "...can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?". One of the values that older people can bring into the Church is, I think, very similar to the value that infants bring, a challenge to our preoccupations with busy-ness, growth and productivity, all of which can, I suspect, be something of an idol. The life-experiences, loves and losses of our older population can be remarkably grounding within a community, and can offer a lesson for all of us, helping us to focus upon more sustainable ways of living and loving in faith.

We thought this piece on the contribution of older people might resonate with our readers

REPORT FROM THE FOOD BANK

In 2021 we supplied a total of 2177 parcels of food feeding 4405 people. In addition, we also supplied 128 Christmas parcels which we hope brought a bit of extra Christmas cheer and help for folk during the festive season. Unfortunately, we are again starting to see a rise in the number of people needing our help. Sadly, the increase seen in the cost of food and utility bills is compounding the situation. All of this came to the attention of the ITV Westcountry news who came to film the Food Bank in action on the 14th December - many of you may have seen it. Although demand for our services has gone up, so have donations of food and money. We are continually amazed by your generosity. We just couldn't provide for our neighbours in our community without you. Thank you for your continuing support. We are very grateful for the wonderful support of Open Door in Exmouth, who provided a special "Love Your Neighbour" gift voucher to go inside our Christmas parcels which will enable folk to enjoy a hot meal and a warm welcome at their community cafe, valid until October 2022. If you are able to donate, we are short of the following: Tinned fish, tinned cold meat, instant potato, bottled squash, long life milk, tinned vegetables, instant coffee and toilet rolls. We would also be grateful for any cleaning products or nappies and we desperately need bags for life please.

We are still supporting along with other agencies the 12 Afghan refugee families who are temporarily staying in the area. We are able to supply them with baby products, nappies and toiletries. We have recently supplied them with the ingredients they needed for the families to have cooking lessons. This has meant not just learning how to cook, but also enabled them to make new friends and become more familiar with our language and culture. They have really enjoyed and appreciated this. Going forward we hope to collaborate and work with other agencies help even more people in the area in need of food and support. We would like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year.

RMC Away Day

This is planned for Saturday 12 February from 10 – 4 at All Saints church Sidmouth. A day to take stock and increase our sense of unity and purpose. This will be a quiet day to rest away from our home churches, engage in some spiritual practices, and wait on God to reveal himself to us. It is open to all people in any of our churches to engage and immerse themselves in the stream of His Spirit. "Unless the Lord builds the house, they labour in vain that build it" (Psalm 127:1)



Following our very successful Blister Pack Recycling scheme (which is still ongoing!) we are now inviting the ladies in the congregation to put unwanted Bras in this bright pink bin, situated in church outside Fran's office.

This will help to raise vital funds for the charity Against Breast Cancer.

NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S SCHOOL



Head Steve Hitchcock writes: I invited **Simon Jupp**, our **MP for East Devon**, to the school so I could explain lots of the challenges we are facing. He agreed that we needed new classrooms to replace the ones on the field, and took on board all the funding challenges facing the school. He was really impressed with the positive atmosphere around the school. We enjoyed visiting some classes. The Year 6s asked him some challenging questions around how he does his job, and what might happen with Boris!

January 100 Club Winners

£5 Angie Wright, £10 Liz Cummings, £20 Sue Waddington. Still some tickets left, see Fiona Hennah in church or phone 488671. Membership £12 to boost church funds.

DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

Tuesday 1st 9.30 St Peter's Prayer Group in the Lady Chapel
Thursday 3rd 2pm Film - The Wonders - at Seachange (The Hub) Prebooking essential
Sunday 6th Queen's Platinum Jubilee
Tuesday 8th 2.30pm Mothers' Union AGM and talk from the Macular Society
Wednesday 9th 7.00 pm A Seat at the Table, in church. See above
Thursday 10th 12.15 Loaves & Fishes lunch, Peter Hall Book with Fran or Mary 443333 by 4 Feb
Saturday 12th 10.00 - 4.00 pm RMC Away Day All Saints Sidmouth See above
Sunday 13th 6.00pm Choral Evensong
Thursday 17th 8.45am Men's Breakfast, Dolphin Café Book on 443333 3 days in advance
Friday 25th 9.00 - 1.00pm Farmers Market in the Public Hall
Saturday 26th 6.00 - 10.00pm Joint Birthday Party at the Vicarage
Sunday 27th 12.15 Solos Lunch Book with Fran in the office on a Friday am
Rendezvous Café every Friday at 10am in the Peter Hall

We send good wishes to Gillian, who is now back at home.

SERVICES

Sundays Holy Communion at 8am and 10.00am
Choral Evensong 6pm 2nd Sunday

Wednesdays Holy Communion at 9.30am

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
revmartinjacques@gmail.com (not Fridays) **443473**

RMC Administrator: Ms Fran Mills raleighmc@gmail.com RMC Office Weds 10.00 – 12.00, Friday 10.00 – 2.00
443397. Working from home Mon, Tues, Thurs **01395 568732**

Churchwardens:	Iris Cooper	445273	Chris Parrish	442275
Deputy Wardens:	Judith Stewart-Young	442197	George Maddaford	446077
	Pat Rogers	446304	Eileen Milne	446725

PCC Secretary: Christopher Briscoe 444381 **PCC Treasurer:** Tony Gray 444006

Director of Music and 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 Chairman: Position vacant. For information, please contact the RMC Office

DIGITAL MINI-MAG

To join the Mini-Mag email list send your address to Gillian gillian.heathfield@gmail.com or read it on the parish website <https://www.raleighmissioncommunity.org.uk/st-peters-parish-magazine.html>

Please send contributions to both editors gillian.heathfield@gmail.com and RNHumphreys@aol.com