

# SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG



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

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Editors: Rosemary Humphreys 488524  
Gillian Andrews 444095

## A MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES



Dear friends,

I am writing this well in advance of course and things change so quickly and so often, your words can be out of date almost as soon as you have written them but one thing that doesn't change is hope.

As inexorably, the winter changes to Spring, so I hope the dark days of enforced separation from loved ones, fear of disease, lots of premature deaths and severe restrictions on our civil liberties may soon be behind us.

2020 was a year that most of us will want to forget, put behind us, and move on, but at the same time, we have all had to learn and develop different coping strategies, skills and habits to enable us to cope with what was thrown at us.

The situation also revealed a depth of generosity and resilience that many of us didn't know we had. We learned things like "zoom" because we had to but discovered that actually, in many circumstances it will be a great help in the future.

In adopting daily exercise routines taken because we weren't allowed to leave home for unnecessary trips, we realised were beneficial at all times and not just through official "lockdowns".

A quieter, more measured lifestyle, (as opposed to official self-isolating) we perceived could also be beneficial.

In the first lockdown in March people recorded being amazed at the loudness of birdsong and stopped for the first time in ages to actually stop and look at things properly.

Yes, I think 2020 was a year we'd prefer to forget on the whole, but perhaps not entirely?

I hope and pray that indeed 2021 is collectively a far kinder and happier time for all of us, and that you will be blessed in your life with the gift of peace.

Love and prayers

*Martin*



We will have celebrated Epiphany by the time you read this but the 3 Kings on the pillar box outside the Medical Centre brightened up the grey days of December. So far, they have raised £1302.00 (inc Gift Aid) for Devon Mind and Hospicecare. Thank you Budleigh Yarnbombers!

*We were sent this item a while ago before cardboard spectators at football matches were thought of!*

### **Cardboard Clergy**

**From the Board Room**, Cardboard Fabrications Ltd, Cardington, Cardiff, Cardiganshire.

Dear Sir / Madam,

We are sure you have already come across our extremely popular cardboard products: Police cars (to discourage speeding), and Policemen (to deter shoplifters). Following the success of these, we are pleased to announce that we can now offer **Cardboard Clergy**.

The cardboard Vicar is invaluable to hard-pressed Readers during an interregnum or the incumbent's holidays and sabbaticals. They are life-size, and come in male and female models, each in high, low or middle-of-the-road versions. Our latest model, a charismatic vicar, comes with arms that can spring up and down. It is especially effective when stood in the pulpit.

Field trials have shown that when a cardboard vicar was installed without the congregation knowing, 40% of those later questioned had noticed no difference, and 25% said there was a considerable improvement. We hope to have the cardboard bishop available soon, which can be placed in a diocese when the real Bishop is in the House of Lords, or on holiday. Trial models have been installed in General Synod for some time without being detected.

Our cardboard congregation is also now on the market, and selling very well. Its response to sermons is indistinguishable from the real thing. It has the positive advantage that, when volunteers are called for, no one makes a dash for the door. In some churches, there has been a marked improvement in singing.

All the cardboard we use is recycled from PCC and General Synod papers, thus enhancing the usefulness of these institutions to the Church of England by an estimated 75%.

We commend our quality products to you and hope that you will find them just what you are looking for.

RJB.V. Card (Managing Director)

*(This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is entirely coincidental.)*

### **The Children's Society**

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December our congregation received a very inspiring address from Chris Shepherd about the work of the Children's Society. The Society – founded in 1881 – has changed a lot. Originally it built homes to rescue children from the streets. Now it works with a range of agencies and organisations to reach out to children who are being abused or exploited, have mental health problems, are acting as family carers – or whose families simply don't have enough to eat. We were given some individual case histories. Figures for East Devon are disturbing. Of the 20,000 children aged 10 – 17, 22% live in poverty. About 2000 have mental health problems. Chris emphasised that the work of the Society gives these children HOPE and was grateful for our retiring collection as there was no Christingle service to raise funds this year. You can view Rev Karen's Christingle service via the RMC website or on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/uMWTUiTk>. (The retiring collection raised £570.00 – thank you!).

### **The Pastoral Care Team**

The Pastoral Care Team (PCT) is an RMC group with 14 members from the three parishes. In 'normal' times the team visits people in their homes and takes Holy Communion to local nursing homes. During the pandemic such visits have not been possible so members have been telephoning people in their homes to keep in touch. The team does not only contact people who are no longer able to come to church but anyone they hear of who is housebound or unwell. They delivered almost 50 Christmas cards to people who have not been able to come to church since the pandemic began. If you know of anyone vulnerable or living alone – whether they come to church or not – who would appreciate being contacted or if you think you might like to join the team, please phone the Leader Jenny Steele on 443133.



## Mothers' UNION

### CHURCH ORGANISATIONS IN ABEYANCE - "MOTHERS' UNION"

For many years the MU has been rather hampered by its name, despite many efforts to change it.

It was founded by Mary Sumner, wife of a country vicar. She realised that in those days, approximately 200 years ago, the social gap in their village was enormous, and she felt both ends could be of use to the other, So she introduced the cottage ladies, as she called them, to the other ladies. At first it was intended solely for married ladies, and that meant securely married ladies, in fact when I was enrolled 50 years ago, we wore white veils for the ceremony and gloves! And if a marriage became rocky or broken, you were ousted.

Eventually it was realised that it really was for the help and advancement of families, so now the 4 million members worldwide may be male or female, and married or unmarried or separated or divorced.

Worldwide there is an enormous variety of functions. In some countries where women are entirely dependent on men, they are taught money handling, small money-making skills and in many governments MU members are elected to represent the needs of women and families. Families in difficulties are helped by prison visiting, refuges for families subjected to physical abuse, and contacts for runaway children. There are classes for mothers to teach better child-care, and branches prepare layettes for premature babies.

At St Peter's we normally meet in the Peter Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 2.30 to 4, have a talk, discussion or occasionally a video, and tea to get to know each other. At present you pay £1 to attend a meeting, and members pay an annual fee which varies with the needs for that year. There is a magazine to keep one in touch, and membership brings a prayer suggestion daily and news of the many countries, together with an annual remembrance of every branch..... and the enrolment is much simpler and no veils. We are always delighted to see any new face, whether for 1 meeting, or successive ones, so when once again we are able to meet, we would love to see new faces... *Di Bagshawe*

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The Leprosy Mission. Please could you collect all the stamps from your Christmas post and ongoing through 2021. These are sent off to support The Leprosy Mission - a collecting box can be found at the back of the church.

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