

# SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG



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

Editors: Rosemary Humphreys 488524  
Gillian Andrews 444095

MAY 2020



## MESSAGE FROM THE REVD. MARTIN JACQUES

Dear friends,

We are so lucky to live in this beautiful part of East Devon during this lockdown. Imagine living in a tower block in London where they may have closed the parks. The good weather we have been enjoying would be seen as a curse rather than a blessing, so let's be grateful for small mercies.

When we do go out for our daily exercise, people are friendlier (generally) than they were before which is pleasant, perhaps because of the sense of a bad situation shared I suppose.

True, there have been surreal situations as well for example with funerals with no-one present except me being live streamed to relatives. The churches, being closed alongside thousands of other ventures nationwide is very strange indeed though necessity is the mother of invention and people in all sorts of situations are finding new ways of operating.

I'm sure some of you have found, like me, that a daily routine however flexible helps a bit and having meals at set times so we don't all graze all day is very necessary, especially for me.

The enforced isolation has of course produced unexpected benefits as well. I notice nature more, the birds singing, the squirrels bounding around, and I have been forced to slow down a bit and think about what I really miss and what I really need. In normal times we tend to get what we want and not what we need. In these abnormal times we can take more time, think about what we normally do, and what we actually need.

This period of enforced isolation is not good. But even so, some good could come out of it if we let it.

Love and peace

*Martin*

**SADLY CHURCH SERVICES REMAIN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE  
BUT PEW SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH PORCH**

### QUICK CONTACTS

**VICAR:** The Revd. Martin Jacques, The New Vicarage, Vicarage Road, East Budleigh, EX9 6EF  
[revmartinjacques@gmail.com](mailto:revmartinjacques@gmail.com) (not Fridays) 443473

**ASSOCIATE PRIEST:** The Revd. Karen Young, Maranatha, Boucher Way, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6HQ  
[thereverendkarenyoung@gmail.com](mailto:thereverendkarenyoung@gmail.com) 488121

**RMC Office – Fran Mills –** [raleighmc@gmail.com](mailto:raleighmc@gmail.com) 443397

**PLEASE PRAY FOR DAVID AND HEATHER SHARLAND**

**Our CMS Mission Partners**

A letter has just arrived from the Sharlands in Uganda with an **urgent request** for prayer over an impending threat in the form of a plague of locusts. This comes on top of the strict lockdown in force as Covid19 has even spread to that remote corner of Africa. They live a very much hand-to-mouth existence and depend on seasonal crops to provide most of their food. There have been some decent rains and young plantings are looking promising, just right for locusts to demolish if the swarm were to reach them.

## THE NEW TESTAMENT

The Gospels are the absolute foundation blocks of the Christian Faith. We do not really know anything for certain about the four evangelists - though all agree that their writings are the inspired Word of God and essential to our salvation. The most we know is of St. Luke, almost certainly the Luke mentioned by St. Paul as his companion on many journeys. It is striking that in Acts, Luke speaks of 'we' after Paul made his first trip to Troas. If so, Luke was a doctor. What is certain is that Luke the evangelist was an educated, cosmopolitan man who spoke and wrote in fluent accurate Greek. Luke, unlike the other evangelists, was addressing gentile converts to Jesus, rather than observant Jews. Scholars are agreed that the evangelist and the author of Acts are one and the same person - as he states in the first lines of Acts.

The other evangelists are harder to place. John was once seen as 'the beloved disciple', brother of St. James the Great and son of Zebedee. It is generally agreed now that the last gospel was compiled much too late for that John to have written it himself, though it probably sprang from his close followers. John, of course, provided a home for Our Lady after the Crucifixion and they are generally thought to have gone together to Ephesus, now Seljuk, where he died at a considerable age. Whoever he was, John was a devout observant Jew who lays great stress on the great Jewish Festivals that puncture his gospel. Indeed, St. John has Jesus going up to Jerusalem more often than the Synoptics (the other three gospels which follow a closely related account of different language and thought patterns. St. Mark is generally thought to have been the first to write his gospel as both Luke and Matthew borrow material from him. It is also thought that there was another source, now lost, often called 'The sayings of Jesus', which was used by all three Synoptics. Mark wrote in a rough no-nonsense language sometimes described as 'Kitchen Greek'. All we really know of Matthew is that he wrote for Jewish converts.

There were many accounts of Jesus, His Crucifixion and Resurrection in the early church. Some fragments have been recovered from the Dead Sea scrolls, more from the so-called Gospels of Andrew, Bartholomew and others. The early Church determined over several centuries that only the four gospels we now have shall be regarded as canonical and finally included them in the Bible we all use today. The earliest known list of all 27 books that now form the NT Canon is in the Easter Letter of 367 by St. Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria. Thus, it is the undivided Church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit which chose and authenticated our Bible over centuries, rather than a single divinely-authored Bible that created the Church.

Shalom. Bibli O'Phile

### THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND HAS PUBLISHED A LEAFLET GIVING FIVE TIPS TO HELP LONELINESS:

**PRAY.** Light a candle, if safe, and pray for hope, faith and strength to keep loving and caring for each other during this time of struggle.

**TALK ABOUT HOW YOU FEEL.** This may be difficult if you are self-isolating, but do use the telephone, internet, and social media. If you need to contact a counsellor this can be arranged by your GP, or via local agencies, or privately. **Samaritans are there** 24 hours a day, every day, and it's free to call them on 116 123.

**FOCUS** on the things that you can change, not on the things you can't.

**LOOK AFTER YOURSELF** – physically, emotionally, spiritually. Plan in things that you enjoy at regular intervals during the day – a TV programme, a phone call, a book, a favourite dish, a game.

**LOOK AFTER OTHERS.** Even if only in small ways, but do what you can: a smile, a kind word, writing a letter or an email.

### GAELIC BLESSING

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind always be at your back,  
May the sun shine warm on your face,  
The rain fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again  
May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

## ST PETER AND ST PAUL

The two most famous apostles are remembered on June 29<sup>th</sup> as they share a feast day. St Peter will be featured next month to celebrate our patronal festival.

St Paul (d.c.65) started life with another name: Saul. This great apostle to the Gentiles was a Jew born in Tarsus and brought up by Gamaliel as a Pharisee. So keen was he to defend the god of his fathers that he became a persecutor of Christianity, and even took part in the stoning of Stephen. He hunted Christians down and imprisoned them. It was while on his way to persecute more Christians in Damascus that he was suddenly given his vision of Christ which radically changed his life for ever. The phrase *a Damascene conversion* is still used today.

It was the decisive moment of Paul's life – Paul suddenly realised that Jesus was truly the Messiah, and the Son of God, and that He was calling Paul to bring the Christian faith to the Gentiles. Paul was then healed of his temporary blindness, baptised, and retired to Arabia for about three years of prayer and solitude, before returning to Damascus. From then on Paul seems to have lived a life full of hazard and hardship. He made many Jewish enemies, who stoned him, and wanted to kill him. Nevertheless, Paul made three great missionary journeys, first to Cyprus, then to Asia Minor and eastern Greece, and lastly to Ephesus, where he wrote 1 Corinthians, then to Macedonia and Achaia, where he wrote Romans, before returning to Jerusalem.

After stonings, beatings and imprisonment in Jerusalem he was sent to Rome for trial as a Roman citizen. On the way he was shipwrecked at Malta; when he finally reached Rome he was put under house-arrest for two years, during which time he wrote the four 'captivity' epistles. Later Paul may have revisited Ephesus and may even have reached Spain. Tradition tells he was eventually martyred at Rome during the persecution of Nero, being beheaded (as a Roman citizen) at Tre Fontane and buried where the basilica of St Paul 'outside the walls' now stands.

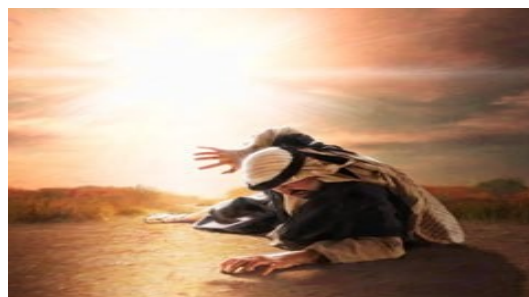
The belief that Peter and Paul died on the same day was caused by their sharing the same feast day. Paul was not only a tireless missionary, but a great thinker. His epistles played a major part in the later development of Christian theology. Paul's key ideas include that Redemption is only through faith in Christ, who abrogated the old Law and began the era of the Spirit; that Christ is not just the Messiah, but the eternal, pre-existent Son of God, exalted after the Resurrection to God's right-hand; that the Church is the (mystical) body of Christ; that the believers live in Christ and will eventually be transformed by the final resurrection.

It is difficult to over-emphasise the influence of Paul on Christian thought and history: he had a major effect on Augustine, Thomas Aquinas, Luther, Calvin and others.

In art, Paul is depicted as small in stature, bald and bandy-legged, with a long face, long nose and eyebrows meeting over deep-set eyes. His usual emblems are a sword and a book. In England he was never as popular as St Peter, and ancient English churches dedicated to him alone number only 43.

The history of the relics of Peter and Paul is not very clear. Tradition says that Peter was buried at the Vatican and Paul on the Ostian Way under his basilica. Certainly, both apostles were venerated from very early times both in the Liturgy and in private prayers, as testified by Greek and Latin graffiti in the catacombs of the early 3rd century.

***From an article in the Parish Pump***



The RHS will create a Virtual RHS Chelsea Flower Show to celebrate our great horticultural industry and gardening heritage. The virtual show will run online from **Tuesday 19th to Saturday 23rd May** and aims to unite people around the joy of gardening — but from the comfort of their own home. Obviously, they cannot create the actual show at The Royal Hospital Chelsea, but they are looking at what they can do on the RHS website and other platforms for people to enjoy and to share the joy of gardening. They will be asking for the ideas and involvement of growers, nurseries, designers, landscapers and trade stands.



**JOHN GRAVES SIMCOE 1752 – 1806**  
 This house was a welcome retreat from military duties.  
 There is also a memorial in Exeter Cathedral



**THOMAS ADOLPHUS TROLLOPE 1810 – 1892**  
 Brother of Anthony Trollope. Also a writer in his own right.



**SIR JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS 1829 – 1896**  
 One of his best paintings “Christ in the house of his parents.”  
 One of the founders of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood.



**COL. WILLIAM HATCHARD-SMITH 1827 – 1967**  
 Architect of over 50 buildings in Budleigh Salterton.  
 An album of his plans is in the Fairlynch Museum.



**DR. H. J. CARTER 1813 – 1895**  
 Born in Budleigh Salterton and retired there after a career as an  
 army surgeon mainly in India.



Originally an old thatched fisherman’s cottage

*Answers in the June Mini Mag*

