

SAINT PETER'S MINI-MAG



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

JANUARY 2022

**Editors: Rosemary Humphreys 488524
Gillian Andrews 444095**

A MESSAGE FROM THE REV. DR. MARTIN JACQUES

Dear friends,



Happy New Year to everyone reading this, despite what may be happening in other parts of our lives.

At the time of writing, the national mood is darkening, everybody is talking about more restrictions on our freedom, and by the time you read this it's anyone's guess what may be happening in the world.

And it is that very uncertainty that people find so debilitating and anxiety producing. Planning ahead for anything has become a nightmare, and it has become alarmingly clear how little real control we have over our own lives.

However true that has always been, we are always trying to kid ourselves that we are the masters of our own destiny but we are being forcefully reminded that there are things way beyond our control that shape our lives. Our decisions, life situation, will power and brute good luck provide a modicum of control over certain things but there is nothing like a pandemic, or a death, or a diagnosis of a serious illness, a divorce or a redundancy to remind us that we are fragile creatures at the mercy of things way beyond our ability to control.

Accepting that fact is hard for many of us, but once we do accept it, we automatically become humbler and less ego centric people. Once we become less self-centred it becomes easier to put our hands into the hands of one who is beyond all the temporal and temporary difficulties, fears and disappointments we have in life.

Belief in a higher power is a step rather than a leap of faith. Knowing that this higher power is wholly good, merciful, loving and believes that you are created good is a further step that cushions your progress through all the ups and downs that we all face in life.

Jesus never promised us an easy life, but He did say this;

“In this life you will have trouble, but take heart, I have overcome the world”

Love and peace,

Martin

We are still looking for a new Editor to take over when Rosemary leaves in the spring. If you think this is something you might like to do, please phone Rosemary (488524) or Gillian (444095).



New Year's Reflection by the Revered Prebendary James Grier, Diocesan Mission Enabler

I've never been a great fan of New Year's Resolutions. I'm probably avoiding failure by not trying in the first place. I seek to justify it by saying that if there are things to improve in our lives, we shouldn't wait until new year to implement them? But I think I'm wrong. I could say that I don't need a birthday or anniversary to tell my wife how much I love her. But if I'm honest, I should tell her how much I love her every day and even more on special occasions. I should try to make good life choices every day, but an annual moment is good too.

The most popular resolutions are all things that are great for our well-being and that of the world. Things like: Go to bed earlier...Reduce single use plastic consumption...Create a savings plan...Read more, scroll less...Drink more water...Drink less alcohol...Eat more veggies...Volunteer... Increase exercise...Reduce social media...Give up smoking...Drive less, walk more

The fact that statistically 80% of people give up on at least some of their resolutions could simply be seen as failure. But in fact, it means that 20% have created new positive habits and life choices. It's actually better than that, because some of the 80% will have kept up something of their resolutions.

Many people will fail before the end of January, but at least they have more chance of success than those who never started in the first place.

Christians are called to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and love our neighbours as themselves. If we managed to do this the world would be a totally different place and our churches would be full. God realises we're not up to the task and encourages us to allow his Spirit to help us as we seek to grow in our loving. Sheer will power is never enough. If we let him, the Holy Spirit may highlight one area in which we could grow in love. Repentance is central to Christian faith. It's simply admitting that we're not living and loving as we should and stepping back in line with God. It's also receiving the freedom and healing of his forgiveness as we do so. God doesn't say we need to change everything all at once, it's one small step at a time. For some of us, step one may be to try and be more patient. Or to love others by caring for the environment and not using disposable coffee cups.

It's beginning to sound to me like resolutions are a good idea. We could start with a New Year's Resolution but then try mid-year or even mid-month ones too. And a great thing about God is that his steadfast love never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is his faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23). If we fail or give up, he doesn't give up on us, he's there to help pick us up and set us off again. He's there to help us change from the inside out.

We can't change others and we can't guarantee what will happen in the world around us, but with God's help we can change. Wouldn't it be amazing to look back on 2022 and see how God has changed us?

(Article from the weekly Diocesan newsletter **Roots and Shoots**. James Grier came to talk to us about Street Pastors in Exeter.)

££££££££ 100 CLUB CHRISTMAS DRAW MADE AT THE CANDLELIGHT SUPPER ££££££££
£5 Pat Morton, £10 Joyce Julian, £20 George Maddaford, £30 Neville Humphreys, £50 Shirley Tanner, £100 Tony Gray
Don't forget to sign up for 2022!

PANTO COMES TO BUDLEIGH!

A performance of 'Cinderella' will take place in the Public Hall at 6.30pm on Saturday 8 January, organised by Budleigh Carnival. Doors open 5.30. Tickets from Julie on 442067.



REPORT FROM THE FOOD BANK

At this time of year, the Food Bank particularly thanks its volunteers - the drivers, packers, people who date the food, the welcomers, people on the desk, people who answer the telephone, also the ones who manage and collect the stock and donations. January and February can be very hard months for people so they continue to appreciate donations. We must remember that for many of the folks that visit us they simply do not have the support network of family and friends, but with all of your help and kindness, together we can be that family. God Bless.

Exmouth FoodBank Dec 2021

NEWS FROM ST. PETER'S SCHOOL



Key Stage 2 Choristers in Exeter Cathedral

On 23rd November, 23 choir members sang at Exeter Cathedral alongside the trained chorister voices from the Cathedral School and two other Exmouth Schools. An amazing experience in a wonderful setting. The children were just awesome, an absolute asset to our school and they all sang beautifully. Thank you to Mrs Hayman and parent Vicky Evans for their help

SOME MORE FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE.....

TWELFTH NIGHT The Christmas festival lasts for twelve days ending with Twelfth Night of the Feast of the Epiphany when Christians remember the wise men who came to visit Bethlehem. Each of the gifts from the wise men had a special meaning. Gold was given because it is a symbol of royalty, Frankincense was given because it is a symbol of God and myrrh because it is a symbol of suffering.

NEW YEAR In ancient Rome people worshipped the god Janus and believed he had two faces. One looking back at the old year the other looking forwards towards the new year. January is named after him.

THE LEGEND OF THE LAVENDER AND ROSEMARY These plants grow in most European gardens now but are originally from the countries bordering the Mediterranean. They bear tiny mauve-coloured flowers and both have a lovely scent. Here is why. Mary wanted to wash her baby's clothes soon after he was born. It was difficult for her to do away from home but somehow, she managed to get them clean and carried the tiny garments outside to hang up to dry. There was no clothes line around but they must be dry before nightfall. Mary looked around and noticed the two bushes. She thought they would do and spread the garments upon their branches. They soon dried and Mary was able to gather them up and take them back to the stable. During the day a miracle had happened because before the drying of the tiny clothes, the shrubs had no smell but now the tiny clothes were scented with a fragrant aromatic scent. The legend says that is why the shrubs now smell so sweetly, Lavender from the word *lave* which means to wash and Rosemary from Mary's own name – the rose of Mary. When gathering decorations for Christmas, always pick some of the sweetly scented sprigs to mix with evergreens in memory of that washing day so long ago.



DIARY DATES

These dates are correct at the time of publication but may change in accordance with current circumstances.

Thursday 6th 2pm Film - *The Good Liar* - at Seachange (The Hub) Prebooking essential

Saturday 8th 6.30 'Cinderella' in the Public Hall. Tickets from Julie on 442067

Sunday 9th 6.00pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 11th 12.30pm Mothers' Union meal in the Peter Hall

Friday 28th 9.00 - 1.00pm Farmers Market in the Public Hall

Saturday 29th 6pm Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz Night Tickets £10 in advance from Fran or Tony Gray, no tickets on the door. Bar & raffle on the night.

Sunday 30th 12.15 Solos Lunch Book with Fran in the office on a Friday am

Rendezvous Café every Friday at 10am in the Peter Hall

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - 18th - 25th January

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