

St. Mary's Church Pulborough Spring Newsletter March and April 2025



Church News and a little more...

**Published by St Mary's Church
Printed by Mews Press in Pulborough
www.stmaryspulborough.org.uk**

Prayer for our world today

*We continue to pray for all those caught up in the **conflicts in the Middle East, Ukraine and other troubled parts of the world.** We pray for all **migrants and refugees** and all who have been driven from their homes. We pray for all world leaders, diplomats and ambassadors and all working for the common good*

The Lord's Prayer in Ukrainian

Отче наш, що єси на небесах,
Нехай святиться Ім'я Твоє.
Хай прийде Царство Твоє,
нехай буде воля Твоя
Як на небі, так і на землі
Хліб наш насущний дай нам сьогодні.
І прости нам провини наші,
як і ми прощаємо винуватцям нашим.
І не введи нас у спокусу,
але визволи нас від лукавого.
Бо Твоє є Царство, і сила, і слава
навіки. Амінь

A Prayer for the Holy Land

Loving God,
Praying for the Holy Land and its people,
praying for your deep peace,
praying that swords are turned to ploughshares,
we ask that your kingdom will come on earth as in heaven.
May those in power seek your heart.
May those suffering know your presence.
May those mourning be comforted.
May we, who watch at a distance,
be open to seeing with your eyes of compassion and understanding
and know how to pray and respond justly, mercifully and humbly.
In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen

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Hannah Holloway, Austen Hindman, Toni Hayes

Kingfishes Group **Vicky Smith** stmaryschildrenschurch@gmail.com
Hannah Holloway Tel: 07771 581215
(meet on Mondays after school during term time)

Ladybirds **Mr Tony Holloway** Tel: 01798 874146
(for infants and toddlers with parents or carers
meet on Thursdays from 10-11.30am in term time)

Deanery Synod Members: **Mr Rob Aylott, Mrs Alyson Heath,**
Ms Susan Scholefield

Parochial Church Council Elected Members

Mr Brian Hunter

Mr Peter Gregory

Mrs Toni Hayes

Mr Austen Hindman

Ms Elizabeth Hunt

Ms Christine Lindsay

Ms Susan Scholefield

Mrs Vicky Smith

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Friends of Pulborough Parish Church
Website: www.friendsofpulboroughparishchurch.org
The aim of the FPPC is to raise funds for the fabric of one of the most iconic buildings in Pulborough.
The Chairman is Chris Williams: email
pulboroughwilliams@btinternet.com

**QR Code for
Donations to
St Mary's
Church**



Lent 2025

For us, Lent is an opportunity to hold up a mirror to ourselves and ask the question, *'who am I?'* It's a season of honest encounter with who we are, what we've done, and how we should live. What will we see when we hold up the mirror to ourselves?

Keeping Lent, the 40 days running up to Easter, could mean taking time to read Scripture, studying a Christian book or spending five minutes each day in silence! We might fast by missing one or two meals, refraining from TV, alcohol, social media, or scrolling on our phones. All of these can help us to give more attention to God in our lives.

Whatever we do, Lent is a season for self-reflection, as we put ourselves in a position to receive afresh the forgiveness and healing that God offers.



Our Lenten Appeal

EDUCATION WEST AFRICA

This year we are supporting Education West Africa as our Lenten Appeal.

St Mary's School has strong links with the school in Kenema in Sierra Leone

Education West Africa helps school pupils in Sierra Leone get a better start to life.

Though education, young people can strive to escape poverty and get a job, earn money, live a healthier life, become independent and contribute to their family and the economy of their country. The charity asks children, teachers and headteachers what their greatest needs are, and set up projects to fulfil those needs. Sierra Leone is one of the poorest countries in the world. Education is key to changing this for future generations.

Lent Course

This year we will have an ecumenical Lent Course over 5 weeks starting on **Wednesday 12th March at 7pm at St Mary's School.** Other dates will be **Wednesday 19th March, Wednesday 26th March and Wednesday 2nd April.**

The final session will be on **Wednesday 9th April** and will be held in **St Mary's Church.**

This year we will be studying the Nicene Creed, (the first part from the Council of Nicaea in 325AD, the second from that of Constantinople in 381AD)

Week 1: God the Almighty Father

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

Week 2: The Only Son of God

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,

Week 3: The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
worshipped and glorified.

Week 4: One Holy Catholic & Apostolic Church

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

Week 5: The Life of the World to Come

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE GREAT PULBOROUGH PANCAKE DAY



**Cooking pancakes for charity on Shrove
Tuesday in Pulborough Village Hall**

Tuesday 4th March, 2025

11.30am to 2.30pm and 5.30pm to 8pm

*All profits will be split between **Macmillan Palliative Care** based at Midhurst supported by the Billingshurst Macmillan Group, **Pulborough Lunch Club** and **Education West Africa** – Supporting the schools in the Diocese of Bo in Sierra Leone*

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the Season of Lent which is a time of prayer and penitence in preparation for Easter. During the liturgy on this day we are reminded of the traditional three disciplines associated with Lent, namely

- 1 **Prayer**
- 2 **Fasting** (*giving up something*)
- 3 **Almsgiving** (*supporting financially others who are in need*) hence our special Lent Appeal.

These disciplines are adopted as a means of helping us to draw closer to the Lord during this holy season and reminding us of our duty towards others.

We will be marking this day with a **Eucharist at 10.15am and Sung Eucharist at 7.30pm**. The Imposition of Ashes, is the signing of the Cross in ash on our foreheads. These Ashes are made from the burning of palm crosses from last year. This is an outward sign of our individual and corporate repentance before God and will be offered at both Eucharists.

There will also be special service for Ash Wednesday for our school at 9am.



Bearing fruit takes time

The nine fruits of the Spirit are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. We don't strive for the fruits of the Spirit, rather we plant ourselves in good soil, allow ourselves to be fed by the Holy Spirit, keep taking in nourishment, turn to face the light of Christ and these fruits will develop and grow in our lives.

Can you tell whether a tree is an apple tree or a pear tree? Not easily when they are in blossom, but very easily when they bear fruit. Bearing fruit takes time and a lot of planting, preparation, nurture and growth.

March is the time of year when gardeners begin to plant seeds ready for summer, but patience is needed – the seeds will take a while to germinate, and the gardener needs to write the names of seeds on labels and not forget which are fruit, flowers and vegetables. The seeds need to be in the dark, or the light, or the warmth or the cool, depending at what stage of life they are at.

So too, is God with us. God writes our names on His heart; God knows what fruit we can bring forth. God nurtures us and gives us light to grow. But first, we need to be planted and that can be scary. Maybe you are feeling in a cold dark place this March, maybe it feels as if you've been buried, maybe you've got a weight above you and you can't see the way out. Just think that maybe you've been buried because you've been planted.

With patience there will be warmth and light, be like a seed, trust God, and begin to grow out of the darkness towards God's marvellous light. We won't see fruit immediately; we have to be nourished and mature and ripen. Patience will be given to us, fruit of the seed of the Holy Spirit.

Spring Nature Walk

Our first Nature Walk of the year with Christine Lindsay will be on **Saturday 8th March starting at 10am**. We meet outside the Church Porch and take a leisurely stroll to the Pulborough Garden Centre for a refreshment break. It will be good to see signs of



Spring and enjoy Christine's knowledgeable guidance. Please wear suitable footwear as the paths can be muddy. If it is raining the walk will be postponed.

An Irish Blessing

With St Patrick's Day in mind, (Monday 17th March),

Always remember to forget
the things that made you sad.
But never forget to remember
the things that made you glad.

Always remember to forget
the friends that proved untrue.
But never forget to remember
those that have stuck by you.

Always remember to forget
the troubles that passed away.
But never forget to remember
the blessings that come each day.

Clocks go Forward

Don't forget the clocks go forward by one hour at 1am on 30th March. (Clocks 'spring forward' in spring). This marks the beginning of British Summertime which started when the Summer Time Act was passed in 1916 so that people in the northern hemisphere could make more use of the daylight hours. Double Summer Time (Greenwich Mean Time + 2 hours) was used during the WW2.

Mothering Sunday – 30th March

The Fourth Sunday in Lent was called 'Mid-Lent' or 'Refreshment Sunday', when the rigours of Lent were relaxed. more than for any other Sunday of the season.

On Mothering Sunday people were encouraged to go to their 'Mother Church' (their home church or their home Cathedral) to worship and give thanks. Hence apprentices, and others, went home for the weekend and often brought gifts (or accumulated pay) home to their family.

Today we recognise all those in our lives who offer us care and nurture and are involved in 'mothering us'. We particularly honour all who are mothers or who act as mothers to others, recognising that our spiritual 'mothering' should take place within the family of the local church.

This is in contrast to 'Mother's Day' which is a secular day which has evolved more recently to specifically honour mothers. This is celebrated in other countries on the 2nd Sunday in May. In Britain the two days are kept on the same day.

At St Mary's Church we will have a special service on Mothering Sunday at **10.30am** when floral gifts are distributed.





Pulborough Garden Society

This local Garden Society meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month in Pulborough Village Hall with a variety of speakers, a members' flower and produce Spring show in March and a members Autumn show in September

together with a visit this year to Fittleworth House, revamped garden in July.

At the 29th April meeting, the speaker will be Andrw Elms from Lordington Lavender Farm.

£6, for single membership and £11 for family membership.

Non-members £1 per meeting,

If you enjoy gardening for just an interest in anything horticultural please do come along. For more details of this friendly club please contact: **Sue Bulloch on 01798 879749**

Sing for Pleasure

Tuesday at Pulborough Village Hall from 2pm to 3.30pm

Led by Michael Pioli with his delightful sense of humour and encouragement, singing songs from the decades. £4 for the session including an interval for refreshments. Not a choir, no audition, just a joy of singing. Do come along and join us. The next two dates are as follows: **Tuesday 18th March and Tuesday 8th April**



...Joshua says he's very sorry - but it's something to do with the recent weapons procurement review...

St Mary's Tower Clock

Have you noticed the absence of hands on the east facing clock face, the absence of the other clock faces and the deafening silence around each hour? It has been getting progressively more difficult to get the 3 clock faces and the chime synchronised to stop each face showed a different time with the chime several minutes early. A clock which is showing the wrong time is a bad advertisement for the church and worse than a clock which does not work at all. After 130 years it is not surprising that there is wear in the driving cogs and gears, the cause of the problem. The remedy is to dismantle the mechanism take it away for cleaning and repair. To do this it is necessary to remove the clock hands and while rope access experts are taking them off, take advantage and remove the clock faces which show wear and discolouration to get them refurbished. All this took place at the beginning of February. The various parts are now in the respective workshops and when finished will be replaced, hopefully being more reliable than has recently been the case.



Weathervane

It took a long time, but the old, overweight Cockrill was eventually replaced by a slimmer and more sprightly youngster just before Christmas. The old one was so fat and heavy that he was refusing to turn to the wind, placing an undue load on the oak post where he roosted. Unfortunately, slimming was not possible and retirement the only option. However, there is life in the old bird yet and he is currently resting in the shed pending a final decision on his retirement home. The new slimline version is lighter but the same breed, being exactly the same shape and size. We hope he will serve for many years to come.

Future Developments

Following the survey seeking ideas and suggestions for how the church might be developed and used to face future challenges a Building Development Task Group has been set up to examine the results and prepare a masterplan for further consideration.

The first decision taken by the Group was to consider the work in two distinct stages, firstly to tackle the ongoing maintenance issues to keep the building weathertight and secondly to consider the interior and the survey suggestions.

The work needed in the first stage is largely identified in the Architect's Quinquennial Report. The PCC agreed with the Group's advice to supplement this with data obtained from a drone survey of the higher, inaccessible areas of the church and has commissioned the Architect to proceed with preparation of the necessary documentation to facilitate obtaining Diocesan consent and establishing a contract for the work. This is in hand with the aim of being able to obtain tenders for the work as soon as sufficient funds are available to pay for it.

The second stage initially involved analysis of the responses to the survey. This revealed that the issues most frequently mentioned were related to parking, seating, accommodation and toilet facilities. All the other matters raised would be dealt with in conjunction with one or more of the major items. Parking is not a matter which comes within the remit of the Task Group, being a Diocesan matter. All the other items being considered are associated with the interior layout and use of the building.

The Task Group is considering alternative ways that the suggestions might be met to enable a master plan for the work to be developed. Included in this will be suggestions relating to the aims and objectives giving rise to the need for change.

Consideration will also be given to how any eventual conclusion is presented, both to the community and to the relevant authorities who will have to give consent for any development to be implemented.

Whatever is decided, the need will be to set out the aims and objectives of the Church for the future and then to suggest solutions for wider debate and eventual decision.

Pulborough Village Market

Pulborough Village Market is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year having been set up in 2000 by the Pulborough Millenium Society. Every month we have a lovely selection of stalls selling food and crafts alongside our popular market cafe - an excellent place to meet up with friends for a cup of tea, a bacon bap and a good chat!

The market supports the local Macmillan fundraising group which in turn supports the palliative care unit based in Midhurst.

The churchwardens are having a new initiative to help raise funds for the church. They will be selling local honey, parmesan cheese from Rudgwick, local eggs, home-made soups, home-made cheesy biscuits and just a touch of jigsaw puzzles.

The next markets are on **Saturday 22nd March and Saturday 26th April**. Please come along and support this local village event.

Hearing

A tiny lady was the guest preacher. A few minutes into her sermon, she paused and said: "Can you all hear me at the back?" A kind voice replied: "We can hear you fine. But sadly, we can't quite see you."

Church service

An auntie took her very young niece to church. When they returned home, her parents asked how it had gone. The little girl replied: "Well, the minister prayed, and I prayed. The minister sang, and I sang. The minister spoke, and auntie brought me home."

News from the Friends of Pulborough Parish Church

The Story So far.....

The Friends was launched at beautiful Champs Hill in December 2022, by kind permission of the Bowerman Charitable Trust with the aim of ensuring the future of St Mary's Church, our iconic Grade 1 listed building, and to foster a greater sense of responsibility for its survival. St Mary's Church, which has always been at the centre of the village and community life, stands on high ground overlooking the Arun valley and the Wildbrooks floodplain and is therefore very exposed to the prevailing weather. Built in Sussex sandstone 800 years ago, the masonry is vulnerable and once the stone starts to break down through erosion and frost action, it starts to crumble. We now need to undertake urgent repair work to the church to halt this progress.





Specific Projects.....

1. The weathervane. Work is completed. Estimate £6,870.
2. Church clock. Worn joints and losing time. Work underway. Estimate £12,308. These first two projects have been funded by local donors.
3. External fabric. Repairs to masonry, clerestory windows, tower walls and roof gutters. Estimate £350,000. Provided the funds required have been raised, work is due to begin in May 2025. For this work, we are in the process of making grant applications and have already been awarded funds from two of them including the Sussex Historic Churches Trust who have given us the largest sum they have ever awarded, which is very encouraging. We are hopeful of receiving a major grant from another body too. There have also been donations and a promise of matched funding, together with all the money raised by Friends' events over the last 2 years since our Friends' launch.

See below.

Funds raised in the last 2 years since our launch

We have received a total of £145,926.20 to date which is nearly 42% of our target of £350,000. This comprises the proceeds of local events, donations, subscriptions and grants from charitable trusts.

Friends fundraising events.....

We have been organising regular events for the last two years which have raised over £20,000 . They have included lectures, singing workshops, concerts, film, dances and open gardens.

What we are asking you for:

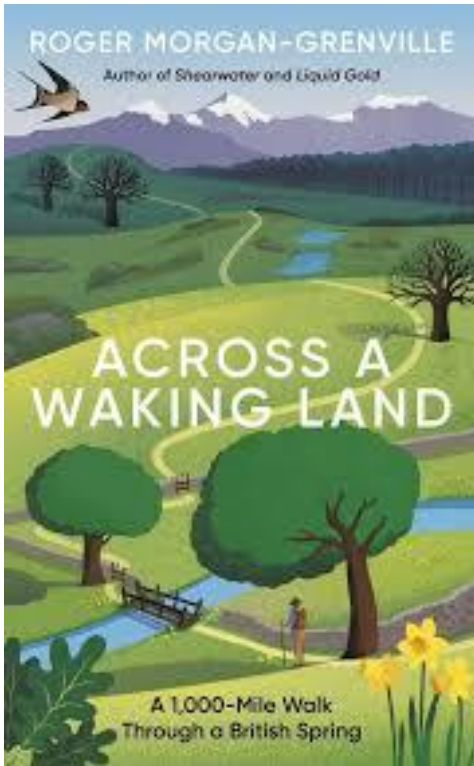
Our aim is to receive substantial donations which can be match funded up to £350,000 and this will encourage others to participate in matched funding. This is a serious and demanding project but we have been very encouraged by the response so far and are confident that, with your help, we can achieve our target. If you would like to support us please contact us either on

**01798 817282 or our email
pulboroughwilliams@btinternet.com.
Chris Williams**

Chairman, Friends of Pulborough Parish
www.friendsofpulboroughparishchurch.org



Friends of Pulborough Parish Church (FPPC) next event



ACROSS A WAKING LAND: a 1,000 mile journey through a British spring

In March 2022, Petworth writer and campaigner, Roger Morgan-Grenville, set off from Lymington on a 55 day, 1,000 mile solo walk to Cape Wrath in northern Scotland, to judge for himself the state of nature in his homeland. On what was a life-changing experience for him, the things he saw and the people he talked to gave him both a new hope and a new determination to work harder for change.

His talk will inform, amuse and hopefully inspire.

This next Friends of Pulborough Parish Church will be on

Tuesday 25th of March at 7.30pm

Ticket price: £20.00

Wine, soft drinks and crisps etc would be served - free of charge (but with a donation box!)

For tickets and more information:

**01798 817282 or our email
pulboroughwilliams@btinternet.com.**

Chris Williams

Update from Education West Africa

We continue to work hard with our fundraising to ensure that we are able to send out money to schools in Bo and Freetown Dioceses. Since September we have held a very successful Bring and Buy sale at church on 6th October, several talks have been given across East and West Sussex and London all resulting in very generous donations. St Mary's school continue to be very supportive of their link school in Kenema.

The project we have been supporting recently is the rebuilding of a primary school in Bopani in the Bo diocese. We were able to send out money during 2024 to start the rebuild and we have now raised enough money to send out the final instalment to complete this project. The picture below shows the build so far and I will share the completed project when photos arrive. We are also sending money out to St Phillips Primary School in Freetown to pay for desks and benches. Our next project will be to support St Mathias Primary school in Lunsar, Freetown, whose school is in a dreadful condition.

Once again thankyou for all your on-going support.

Alyson Heath

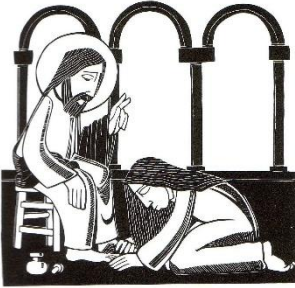
St Mathias
Primary
School
Lunsar,
Freetown



Easter at the Parish Church

17th April MAUNDY or Holy THURSDAY March at 7.30pm

**Sung Eucharist of the Lord's Supper, followed by the Watch
until 11pm**



In our evening service we remember Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples, during which he instituted the Eucharist. The evangelist John also recorded that Jesus washed his disciples' feet. In our service we re-enact this foot-washing

Toward the end of the service we also remind ourselves that Jesus and his disciples left the city to go into the garden of Gethsemane to watch and pray

18th April GOOD FRIDAY

9.30am-11.30am Children's Workshop

The Easter Story in Art" - we will look at the paintings , sculptures, stained glass etc depictions - and then the children have the chance to try out all of the different art forms - painting, clay, stained glass, collage

1pm Liturgy of the Cross

This special liturgy takes place at the time of the Crucifixion on the first Good Friday and helps us enter into the mystery of Christ's suffering and death for the sake of all humanity.



Saturday 19th April at 8.00pm
EASTER EVE

The Easter Vigil with Service of Light, Renewal of Baptismal Vows and first Eucharist of Easter.

The special Easter Eve Service of the Light begins at 8pm in which we welcome the amazing news of Jesus' resurrection



At the end of the service as we continue celebrating with wine, soft drinks and refreshments. If you are able to bring with some savoury or sweet nibbles this would be so helpful.

20th APRIL EASTER DAY

8.00 am The Holy Eucharist – Said



10.30 am THE PARISH EUCHARIST

We celebrate the Eucharist of The Resurrection. Eastertide is made up of fifty days until Pentecost (or Whit Sunday)

The Electoral Roll

This is the year when EVERYONE taken off the Electoral Roll – and needs to make a definite decision to come back on again. It happens in the Church of England every six years. Whereas for five years, the Electoral Roll is revised annually our Electoral Roll Officer, in this sixth year, the roll is dissolved, and we must all re-apply and re-commit ourselves.

That's the quick way of explaining it. If you want a detailed and clear legal break down of how exactly it works, you can find it at <https://www.churchofengland.org/about/leadership-and-governance/legal-resources/church-representation-rules> If you manage to wade through all the details of the process, and understand them, it will leave you with admiration for the person in your church who has been brave enough to become the Electoral Roll Officer!

Fortunately we have a very committed Electoral Roll Officer: Mrs Antoinette Hayes who will be contacting all those people on the present roll in the coming days.

Moses revisited

Young Joseph was asked what he had learned in Sunday school. "Well, Mum, God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When Moses got to the Red Sea, his engineers built a pontoon bridge, and all the people walked across it safely. Then Moses radioed headquarters to send bombers to destroy the bridge, and so all the Israelites were saved."

"Did your teacher really say that?!" asked his mother, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

The Pope calls on journalists to look for good news

The Pope has urged journalists to look out for ‘good news’ stories among so much doom and gloom in global media coverage. His call came during a gathering in Rome of media professionals from around the world that included an audience with Pope Francis. The Pope said, “I encourage you to discover and make known the many stories of goodness hidden in the folds of the news, imitating those gold-prospectors who tirelessly sift the sand in search of a tiny nugget.”

His words come as increasing numbers of people are turning away from news coverage, describing it as “depressing, relentless and boring” according to a recent global survey. Almost four in 10 people worldwide said they sometimes or often avoid the news, up from just under three in 10 in 2017, according to the report by Oxford University’s Reuters Institute.

To counter this, the Pope urged journalists and other media professionals to be ‘communicators of hope’ in a world where divisive disinformation abounds.

Pope Francis, who heads the world’s estimated 1.4 billion Catholics called on all those involved in communications “to focus on beauty and hope even in the midst of apparently desperate situations” and to work to generate “commitment, empathy and concern for others.” He said: “Too often today, communication generates not hope, but fear and despair, prejudice and resentment, fanaticism and even hatred.”

The message also, perhaps, had criticism for the power and influence being wielded by Big Tech companies, such as Elon Musk’s ‘X’, and Meta – that recently announced it was removing fact-checkers from its US operation.

He said, “In these our times, characterised by disinformation and polarisation, as a few centres of power control an unprecedented

mass of data and information, I would like to speak to you as one who is well aware of the importance – now more than ever – of your work as journalists and communicators.”

He called on journalists to communicate hope, noting that “The hope of Christians has a face, the face of the risen Lord.” His gift of the Holy Spirit “enables us to hope even against all hope, and to perceive the hidden goodness quietly present even when all else seems lost.”

Fed up with bad news?

Try looking at www.positive.news or subscribing to their printed magazine. Whilst most of the news overwhelms people with negative narratives, Positive News offers instead a lens on the world that helps give people a fuller picture of reality, supports their wellbeing and focusses on what is going right. They aim to show the rest of the media that good news matters.

The Gulf of Mexico or America

As well as Greenland and the Panama Canal (and perhaps Canada), President Trump wants the Gulf of Mexico.

On his very first afternoon in office, he ordered that the name be changed to the Gulf of America.

Apparently American Presidents can do these things. And so, the US Board on Geographic Names was given 30 days to change the gulf’s name on all official maps throughout the US. Some navigation apps, including Google Maps, were under pressure to change it immediately.

Trump’s reason for changing, he says, is that the ocean basin is “ours” and that the US does “most of the work there”.

But President Trump cannot dictate what other countries call the gulf, as it is an international body of water, with coastlines in the US, Mexico and Cuba. And Mexico and Cuba have no plans to follow Trump’s lead. With that in mind, Britain has politely declined to change the name. In the UK, it will remain the Gulf of Mexico, unless and until Trump’s new name for it gains “widespread usage” in English.

Negotiations with myself – and God

Have mercy upon us. Have mercy upon our efforts,
That we before Thee, in love and in faith,
Righteousness and humility,
May follow Thee,
With self-denial, steadfastness and
courage,
And meet Thee in the silence.

Give us a pure heart that we may see Thee,
A humble heart that we may hear Thee,
A heart of love that we may serve Thee,

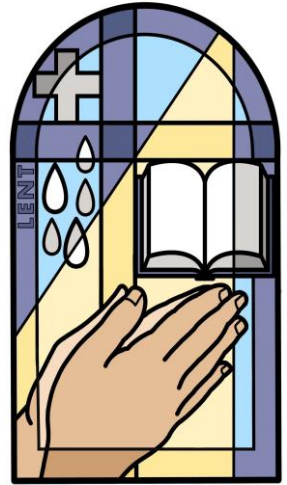
A heart of faith that we may love Thee,
Thou whom I do not know
But whose I am.

Thou whom I do not comprehend
But who hast dedicated me
To my fate. Thou –

By Dag Hammarskjold

Dag Hammarskjold (1905 – 1961) gave the impression of being an agnostic humanist while he was serving as Secretary-General of the United Nations. So, it was a surprise when after his death in a plane crash, his private papers contained some notes entitled “negotiations with myself – and with God”.

His prayers have a naked honesty which is deeply moving. This one is from 1961, written the year of his untimely death.



Should the Churches agree on a common date for Easter

That is the question for the leaders of the Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox Churches, as this year (2025) marks the 1700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea.

Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople believes that 2025 is a 'golden opportunity' for Catholic and Orthodox believers to finally agree on a joint date for Easter, because this year also brings a 'fortunate alignment' of the Easter dates of both churches.

"It is indeed regrettable that 1700 years later, we are still debating this issue," he says.

Any agreement would only pertain to the date of Easter's celebration. It would not involve any joint liturgical practices. Those would require ecclesial communion between the churches, something which does not yet exist.

In 2016 the Archbishop of Canterbury held talks with Coptic Pope Tawadros II in Cairo, when he hoped that a unified date for Easter might be achieved within ten years. He commented that, for the C of E, either the second or third Sunday in April would be acceptable.

Lost in translation

Are you travelling this Spring? Keep an eye out for those delightful translations into English that didn't quite make it...

Danish airline: We take your bags and send them in all directions.

Heathrow: No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

Japanese taxi: Safety first: please put on your seatbelt.
Prepare for accident.

Kenyan maternity ward: No children allowed.

Beijing shop: Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.