



Church of the
Good Shepherd

**Second Sunday
before Lent
8th February 2026**

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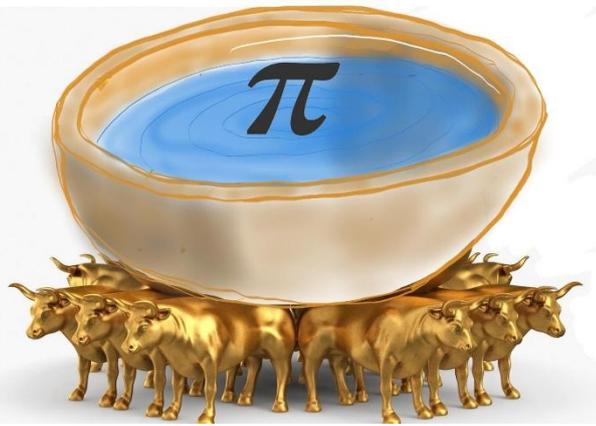


Image by Revd Jess, see Bible Art below for commentary.

We enter a short season of green Ordinary Time before Lent begins with Ash Wednesday 18th February. All are welcome to join us for our services.

Collect

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Readings

Genesis 1.1 - 2.3, Psalm 136 or
Psalm 136.1-9,23-26, Romans 8.18-25
Matthew 6.25-34

An announcement from Fr Dominic

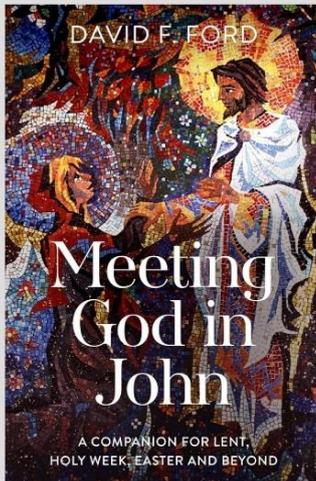
This weekend, following a period of much prayer and discernment, I have written to the Bishop, to tell him of my decision to retire from full time ministry at the end of April. After nearly forty years of ministry, there is, of course, no easy time to take that decision – but I believe, both at St Mary's and at The Good Shepherd, that you are in a strong and energising place to take forward your ministry into the future. I'm thankful for the opportunities I have been given, in a very short space of time, to witness growth – both in our congregations and in our spiritual life – and I wish to express my immense gratitude to all my clergy colleagues (especially to Jane Bartlett), and to the churchwardens (Ed, Sarah, Kay and Nix) – for their sterling support throughout my time here. I will continue to pray for each of you, as I ask that you will pray for me and for Dennis, at this time of transition. We can now all look forward to Lent and Easter, and to the promise of new life and renewal that joyful season brings. **Dominic**

Benefice Lent Group There are three groups running this year across the benefice open to all. We focus on a new book from the leading Gospel of John scholar David Ford, 'Meeting God in John' (SPCK). In the words of one reviewer: "Meeting God in John offers a **masterclass Bible Study**, a deeply **moving devotional meditation**, and a rich group experience all focused on encounter with Jesus... An amazing journey into the heart of God led by an extraordinarily inspiring guide."- *Paul S Williams, Chief Executive, Bible Society*. The book has had an excellent review in The Church Times ([read here](#)), and is suitable for those new to John and those who want to go deeper. It is also being offered as part of this year's Lent Big Church Read with

video resources and a reading plan, which could be followed individually at home. Click [here](#) for details.

Benefice Lent Groups

A five week course during Lent



Monday 3pm-4.30pm

Led by Revd Liz and Anthony in their Shoreham garden room

Tuesday 10.15am-11.30am

Led by Mthr Anne-Marie at the Good Shepherd

Wednesday 7.30pm-8.45pm

Led by Revd Jane and Judy online (Zoom)

Full details and dates in church newsletters. Sign-up sheets in church or email parish office: smdh.office@gmail.com

Please purchase a copy of the book



St Mary
de Haura



Church of the
Good Shepherd

The dates for the three groups:

Monday, 3pm-4.30pm. Led by Revd Liz and Anthony Rathbone at their Shoreham garden room. 23rd February, 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd March

Tuesday 10.15am-11.30am. Led by Mthr Anne-Marie at the Church of the Good Shepherd. 24th February, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th.

Wednesday 7.30pm-8.45pm. Led by Revd Jane and Judy Short online (Zoom).

25th February, March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th.

Sign-up sheets will be available in church after the Sunday services, or you can email the parish centre. smdh.office@gmail.com.

Places are limited. **Please purchase the book before your first meeting.** If there is sufficient demand a fourth group could run.

Sea Lights meets in the hall this Sunday.

Ash Wednesday 18th February There



are two services in the benefice. You are welcome to attend either:

The Good Shepherd, 10am, St Mary de Haura, 7.30pm

Bible Art (see image at top of newsletter)
2 Chronicles 4.2 'He made a 'molten sea' ten cubits wide and 30 cubits in circumference'.

This is not the passage for today, but one which set me thinking, and has puzzled mathematicians, because you cannot make a bowl with a diameter of ten cubits and a circumference of 30 cubits, because that would make Pi (π) equal to $30/10=3$, but, as we all learned at school, $\pi = 3.14159265 \dots$ and on and on for ever. Eventually the scholars came to a compromise ... the diameter must have been the inside of the bowl and the circumference the outside of the bowl! I was thinking that Pi is like the Holy Spirit in many ways ... it is found everywhere in maths, and engineering and astronomy and almost any area of modern life that you can think of; and yet you can never tie it down. Today there are still mathematicians trying to solve the mysteries of Pi, hundreds of years after it was first described. Mysterious and wonderful and

ubiquitous ... all words we can use to describe the Holy Spirit. The wonders of Creation.

Revd Jess

Bob's Card Sale On Sunday 8th February, after 10am Sunday Service in church hall, during coffee time. A selection of cards for sale priced 80p and £1.

(Any old cards for recycling would be gratefully received, please pass to Bob or leave in the church porch.) Many thanks for your support. **Bob**

SUNDAY 8th FEB
Bob's cards over coffee

SUNDAY 8th MARCH
Bob's cards and crafts for Mothering Sunday and Easter (over coffee)

10-16th MAY CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

SATURDAY 9th MAY CAW fundraiser

FRIDAY 15th MAY CAW Quiz evening

SATURDAY 27th JUNE
SUMMER FAYRE

SATURDAY AUGUST 22nd
Fundraising concert with Coastline Harmony Choir

Church of the Good Shepherd
Shoreham Beach, BN43 5LG

Christian Aid Changemakers

Conference 2026 The Good Shepherd is delighted to be offering a regional 'watch party', with a livestream of the annual Christian Aid conference. During the conference Christian Aid shines a spotlight on the incredible work of its trusted partner organisation – Beacon of Hope, a faith-based NGO in Kenya. You'll hear about their inspiring initiative, *Imarisha Kilimo* – which means "strengthen agriculture" in Swahili. This project is helping families in Kenya, build sustainable livelihoods through improved farming

practices. Join us to discover powerful stories of change, and learn how, together, we can make a lasting impact in the fight against poverty. **The watch party takes place in the Good Shepherd Church on Saturday 14th March, 10am-1pm.** Refreshments provided. All welcome.

FRIENDS Friday 20th Feb. We will meet 2-4pm for chat and games, tea and cake. If you would like to brighten up these wintery Fridays. Do ring up for more details. Joy 01273 462584

Half-term fun for families

Church of the Good Shepherd

Half-term CRAFT & PLAY
family afternoon

Wednesday
18th February
2pm-4pm drop-in. Free!

Church of the Good Shepherd hall, Kings Walk, Shoreham Beach

There will be a BIG Lego table, table football, milkshakes, as well as crafts. Free, but donations are welcome to cover our costs.

Especially suitable for primary school aged children. Children must be accompanied.

World Day of Prayer 2026, Friday 6th March 2pm. *'I will give you rest, come'*. Please join us in gathering together in prayer and worship at Jesus' invitation to give him our heavy burdens & receive his divine rest. The service will be held by our Shoreham Church community at: **St Peter's Church West Street, Shoreham by Sea BN43 5DL 2pm** - followed by light refreshments

This year, the women of Nigeria invite us to come to Jesus and rest in him. Listen to their stories and join them and the whole world in

the World Day of Prayer. For more information on this charity and Women's World Day of Prayer www.wwdp.org.uk

And finally...

We collected **£240.96** at our Candlemas Christingle for our mission partner the Children's Society. Thank you for the donations, and thanks to Chris for all the Christingle oranges.

I work half-time and the days I am usually available are Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday morning. I wish you all a blessed week,

Revd Jane

Services this week

Sunday 8th February

8am – Holy Communion with Revd Jane and Derek.

10am – Parish Communion with Revd Jane and Derek.

This service will be live streamed onto our Facebook and You Tube channel.

You Tube page [CLICK HERE](#)
Church Facebook page [CLICK HERE](#)

Please note that we don't stream our all-age service on the first Sunday of the month.

Tuesday 10th February

9.30am – Holy Communion with Revd Jane.

Wednesday 11th February

6pm – Celtic Evening Prayer on

Zoom [CLICK HERE](#)

Meeting ID: 868 1252 3106 Passcode: 960274

Friday 13th February

8am – Meditation with Morning Prayer A benefice service at St Mary de Haura

Saturday 14th February

8am – Morning Meditation

– in the Good Shepherd and also on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81286470381>

Meeting ID: 812 8647 0381



To donate to the Church of the Good Shepherd online [CLICK HERE](#) Thank you

Church website

www.goodshepherdshorehambeach.org.uk

If you are reading this newsletter on a paper copy and would like to receive it each week through email please contact: cogsenews@gmail.com

Contacts

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Tel: 07986800316

Treasurer *Chris Diebel* Email:

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Parish Centre *smdh.office@gmail.com*

01273 440202. Open: Tues, Thurs 10am-1pm.

Good Shepherd Hall bookings

goodshepherdhall@gmail.com

Tel: 01273 440202

Prayer chain *(for emergency prayer) Liz Beeston 01273 454685*