

Month Ahead- January 2022

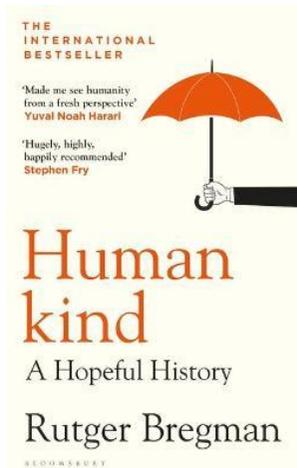
Thurs 6 th	10.30am	Communion followed by refreshments
Sun 9 th	8.00am	Communion
Baptism of Christ	10.00am	Communion followed by refreshments
	7.30pm	Julian Meeting Service
Mon 11 th	7.15pm	SPH Youth Group
Thurs 13 th	10.30am	Communion followed by refreshments
Sun 16 th Epiphany 2	8.00am	Communion
	10.00am	Communion followed by refreshments
	7.30pm	Taizé Service
Mon 18 th	7.15pm	SPH Youth Group
Tues 11 th	2.00pm	Mothers' Union
Wed 19 th	2.15pm	Ladies Guild Meeting, Sarah Williams 'A life of purpose' Talk and songs
Thurs 20 th	10.30am	Communion followed by refreshments
Sun 23 rd Epiphany 3	8.00am	Communion
	10.00am	Communion with Healing Prayer
	7.30pm	Night Prayer and Reflection
Mon 24 th	2.00pm	Film Club in the Hall showing 'Shall We Dance'
	7.15pm	SPH Youth Group
Thurs 27 th	10.30am	Communion followed by refreshments
Sun 30 th Epiphany 4	8.00am	Communion
	10.00am	Communion followed by refreshments
	7.30pm	Faith and Film Night

Further information is available www.stpetershenleaze.org or from the Parish Office Tues, Wed & Fri 9.00am-12.00pm tel 0117 962 4524



Good news! Let me recommend to everyone at St Peter's a book that's really appropriate for the current Epiphany season.

The book I am recommending 'manifests' something neglected but fundamental to our world in 2022. 'Humankind' by Rutger Bregman argues that, rather than being mainly selfish, uncaring and cruel (as much of current culture and media likes to portray), human beings are, more frequently, supportive, caring and kind...and we should take heart from and base more of our decisions on this understanding. The author makes clear that, evolving as human beings have done over millennia to be alert to danger and violence, news of disasters and other people's difficulties naturally grabs our attention. All media – newspapers, radio, film etc - play on this: but huge numbers of the worst stories of human selfishness and cruelty (e.g. William Golding's 'Lord of the Flies' scenario, Richard Dawkins 'Selfish Gene' theory) still dominating contemporary thinking can be re-interpreted and debunked when a fuller picture is provided and assumptions and factors not known or revealed at the time are taken into account.



Bregman is a historian in his early 30's. The son of a Christian minister, he claims not to have a religious faith: but his argument seems to me to have a profound connection to Christian belief in God's good Creation and for us having a better, more developed understanding of the balance between kindness and cruelty in humanity. 'Humankind' is a 496 page paperback available for £7.99. I recommend you read it – and I will organise some Book Group meetings to discuss it after Epiphany...and the epiphanies I trust you will have as you read it!

Mark Pilgrim

Prayer and Bible Reading Digital Apps

Kandis writes: Whether you are looking for a resource to help you pray each day or looking for something new, take a look at the free mobile apps available on Google Play:

 <p>Lectio 365</p>	<p>A daily devotional that helps you pray the bible every day. Inspired by Lectio Divina, a way of meditating on the Bible that follows a simple P.R.A.Y rhythm:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P:ause to be still. • R:ejoice with a Psalm & R:eflect on Scripture. • A:sk for God's help • Y:ield to His will in your life.
 <p>Lectio for Families</p>	<p>New for 2022! The Lectio for Families app has been designed for families with children aged between 7-11 years old but is likely to be suitable for those who are younger and slightly older too!</p>
 <p>Daily Prayer</p>	<p>Find complete services for Morning, Evening and Night Prayer from the Church of England with this official Daily Prayer app. For every day of the year, it presents material for Morning, Evening and Night Prayer in both contemporary (Common Worship) and traditional (Book of Common Prayer) forms. The new player offers audio, with sung canticles and psalms.</p>
 <p>Pray as You Go</p>	<p>Pray as you go is a daily prayer session, designed for use on portable devices, to help you pray whenever you find time. A new session is produced each day, providing a framework for your own prayers, founded in Ignatian Spirituality. Lasting between ten and thirteen minutes, it combines music, scripture and some questions for reflection.</p>

St Peter's Tree & Wildflower Planting Day - Saturday 19th March

We are excited to share that we've received a donation of free small trees and shrubs from the Woodland Trust to plant in our church grounds, as part of our efforts to make the space more biodiverse and environmentally-friendly, as well as more attractive and welcoming.

Could you spend an enjoyable morning with St Peter's friends to help with the planting? We meet at 10am in the church garden. Refreshments will be available, but please do bring a spade / kneeler / gardening gloves if you have them (if not, spares will be available).

If you're able to join the planting party, please let Clare Fussell know on clarefussell@outlook.com or 07872 015753.

Also, there are likely to be some trees and shrubs leftover, so if you'd like one for your garden please do come with a way of transporting them! (Claire Fussell)

A New Year Blessing

John O'Donohue

On the day when
 The weight deadens
 On your shoulders
 And you stumble,
 May the clay dance
 To balance you.

And when your eyes
 Freeze behind
 The grey window
 And the ghost of loss
 Gets into you,
 May a flock of colours,
 Indigo, red, green
 And azure blue
 Come to awaken in you
 A meadow of delight

When the canvas frays
 In the currach of thought
 And a stain of ocean
 Blackens beneath you,
 May there come across the waters
 A path of yellow moonlight
 To bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
 May the clarity of the light be yours,
 May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
 May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so, may a slow
 Wind work these words
 Of love around you
 An invisible cloak
 To mind your life.