

THEME OF THE WEEK: PILGRIMAGE HOLIDAY #4 – PATMOS



PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue praying for our friends **Nigel White, Janette Kitchenham, John Goodwin** and **Shawn Coster**. Would you please also include **Judy Camfield** from our church family who is in need of our thoughts and prayers.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY 18 JULY in St Peter's Church

PLEASE REMEMBER: If you worship regularly, but can't attend any particular week, or if you do not come to St Peter's regularly but would like to attend the service at 10.15 am, please let Lizzy (in the Church Office) know **by Friday lunchtime** either on **01622 743321** or by email to stpeters.church@icloud.com

*The flowers this week have been arranged by **Freda Files** in memory of her great grandson **Baby Charlie**.*

10.15 am **Holy Communion** (led by Phil) **also on ZOOM**

11.00 am **Junction on Zoom** (talk by Christine Holland)

Sing praise, listen to a talk, pray and chat with friends – a lively hour with Junction.

SERVICES ON SUNDAY 25 JULY in St Peter's Church

8.00 am **BCP Holy Communion** (led by Yvonne)

10.15 am **Morning Service** (led by David Parry)

11.00 am **Junction on Zoom** (talk by Gordon Mackley)

MESSAGES

Phil – Restrictions in Church

Even though there is to be a national lifting of Covid restrictions on Monday, after much prayer and consideration, I have decided that it would be safest for everyone if **we continue to maintain our church restrictions until September**, when I will review the use of hand sanitiser, social distancing, pre-booking for services and the wearing of masks. I have also had to postpone my sabbatical, originally planned for September, but hopefully this will go ahead next summer instead.

Church Office – Phil's holiday

Phil will be on holiday from **Thursday 22 July** until **Friday 13 August**.

Lydia Olliver (Life Café Project) – Bibles for Children in Parkwood

A number of churches are coming together to deliver a Summer Activities Club during the school holidays for children in Parkwood, which will be taking place at Christ Church. At the end of the week-long event, we would love to gift each child with a Bible. For many, this will be the only opportunity to resource them with the Word of God as they do not go to church or a Christian school. We are so encouraged when the church comes together to minister to local children. If you would be willing to donate toward the cost of these Bibles, we would be so grateful! Please contact Lydia Olliver (lydia@lifecafeproject.com or 01622 801337). Thank you!

Please note that this request is also going to other churches in Maidstone.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday, 3 September 21 – Evening Commemoration of Paulina Martin's life

Message from Geoff and Joanna (please respond by the end of July)

Covid restrictions allowing, we are hoping to have a commemoration of Paulina's life, on **Friday 3 September at Bearsted Golf Club**, at approximately **7pm**. We are hoping there will be many people from the various aspects of her life – Work, Church, Squash Club, Golf Club, Walking and Family – and would be very pleased if you could come.

We do not want this to be a late Wake but more of a Commemoration of her life and a get-together of all her friends and colleagues, so the dress code will be smart casual and colourful (but please note that the Club does not allow denim jeans).

In order to give us some idea of the numbers, could you please let me know by email if you intend to come, on g.martin89@btinternet.com **by the end of July 2021**.

Bearsted Golf Club is situated in Ware Street, Bearsted ME14 4PQ.

CHURCH FAMILY BIRTHDAYS NEXT WEEK

On **Sunday, 18 July**, it is **David Tomlin's** Birthday!



On **Thursday, 22 July**, **Bryn Murray** will be **5 YEARS OLD!!!**



THEME OF THE WEEK: PILGRIMAGE HOLIDAY #4 – PATMOS

Introduction

The small Greek island of Patmos is situated in the Aegean Sea to the east of Greece and close to Turkey. It is one of the Dodecanese (Twelve Islands) group. Its population is 3,000 people. The capital is Chora (pronounced Hora).



What's is like?

Patmos has an area of about 34 square kilometres (13 square miles). It is mountainous and rocky, but there are also low hills and small plateaux. Its coastline is lacy, with various gulfs forming countless picturesque bays, coves and beaches. The highest peak is 270 metres high.

Why visit?

Patmos is a significant Christian pilgrimage site. It is where St John was exiled by the Romans for preaching Christianity, and where he is said to have written the Book of Revelation.

When is the best time to go?

As with most places around the Mediterranean Sea, spring and autumn are the best times to visit Patmos.

-

How to get there

There is no airport on Patmos. The only way to reach the island is by boat. There are regular ferry services, which connect it to other islands, such as Kos (about 2 hours 50 minutes), Mykonos (3 hours 5 minutes) and Rhodes (4 hours 50 minutes). Also, many cruise ships stop at Patmos for a day excursion.

-

Pilgrimage ... in the steps of St John

The Early Church in Jerusalem

The book of Acts tells us that after the death and resurrection of Jesus, the early church gradually became established in Jerusalem. The apostles travelled in all directions, spreading the message of the Good News. John remained in Jerusalem helping Peter to heal people and spread the Gospel.

The Move to Ephesus

When King Herod Agrippa started attacking the Christians, this caused the early Christians to scatter outside of Jerusalem, and John went to Ephesus. A church had already been established there by St Paul during his Second Missionary Journey (between 49 and 52 AD). John spent many years there (with Mary, the mother of Jesus), and, when St Paul was decapitated outside the city wall of Rome in 64 AD, John became the leader of the church community at Ephesus. Eventually, however, he was imprisoned for preaching the message of Christ. The Roman Emperor at that time was Titus Flavius Domitianus, and he launched a persecution campaign against the Christians. John was captured, and the Romans had just the place for him. The year was 95 AD. John was almost 90 years old.

Exile on Patmos

Patmos was small, rocky and barren. Many criminals of Rome were sent there to serve out their prison terms in harsh conditions. There were mines on the island that the criminals were forced to work. John was sent to Patmos because the early Christians were considered a strange cult group who were known for causing trouble within the Empire. His term was 8 years.

Revelation 1:9

"I, John, both your brother and companion in tribulation...was on the island that is called **Patmos** for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."

John lived in a small cave and, the following year, he began having visions. Jesus appeared to him and told him to write down everything he saw ... and what he did see was written into the Book of Revelation of the Bible.

John's Vision of Christ

Revelation 1:10-19

10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, **11** which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." **12** I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, **13** and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. **14** The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. **15** His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. **16** In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. **17** When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. **18** I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. **19** "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

Interlude – time for a song ...

At Your Feet We Fall, Mighty Risen Lord,
As We Come Before Your Throne To Worship You.
By Your Spirit's Power You Now Draw Our Hearts,
And We Hear Your Voice In Triumph Ringing Clear.

***I Am He That Liveth, That Liveth And Was Dead, (Revelation 1:18)
Behold I Am Alive Forever More. (Revelation 1:18)***

There We See You Stand, Mighty Risen Lord.
Clothed In Garments Pure And Holy, Shining Bright.
Eyes Of Flashing Fire, Feet Like Burnished Bronze, ***(Revelation 1:14-15)***
And The Sound Of Many Waters Is Your Voice. ***(Revelation 1:15)***

***I Am He That Liveth, That Liveth And Was Dead, (Revelation 1:18)
Behold I Am Alive Forever More. (Revelation 1:18)***

Like The Shining Sun In Its Noonday Strength, ***(Revelation 1:16)***
We Now See The Glory Of Your Wondrous Face.

Once That Face Was Marred, But Now You're Glorified,
And Your Words Like A Two-Edged Sword Have Mighty Power. (*Revelation 1:16*)

I Am He That Liveth, That Liveth And Was Dead, (Revelation 1:18)

Behold I Am Alive Forever More. (Revelation 1:18)

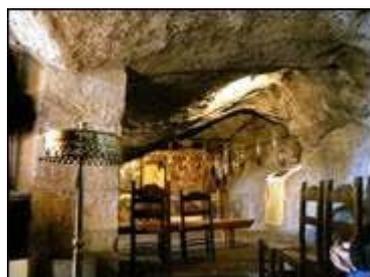
Life after Patmos

After 8 years, John returned to Ephesus. He was 98 years old. He lived for about another two years before dying of old age. Although he had suffered punishments during his lifetime, he was the only one of the 12 apostles who was not martyred. He was buried on a hill overlooking the town.

What to see – on the Pilgrim Trail ...

1 The Cave of the Apocalypse

Also known as “The Grotto of St John”, this is situated between two villages and about halfway up a mountain. It is very small. In 1999, it became a joint UNESCO World Heritage Site together with the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian.



2 The Monastery of St John

Founded in 1088 on top of a hill above Chora, with spectacular 360° views of Patmos and the surrounding islands, the Monastery of Saint John the Theologian is among the most important religious centres in Greece. It looks like a fortress but inside there is a monastery, built on the site of an ancient temple. About 40 monks reside here and it is open to the public. Wander around and see the chapel, the refectory, the frescoes and listen to the bells. The Library is home to more than 3,000 printed books, 900 manuscripts and 13,000 documents dating back to 1073. This room is not open to the public except by special permission, usually for Byzantine and biblical scholars. The monastery has, amongst its relics, the skull of Saint Thomas the Apostle.



What to see – other places not to miss!

3 The Picturesque Streets of Chora



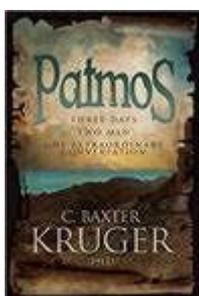
Shopping!

The currency of Greece is the **Euro**.

For her ... A selection of Shopping Bags (£12.50)



For him ... If he likes reading – here is a book suggestion ... (£12.09 on Amazon)



Aidan, a burned out, suicidal theologian from Mississippi mysteriously travels back in time to the Isle of Patmos, where he meets the aged apostle John. Thus begins an extraordinary 3-day conversation, with tormenting flashbacks to his childhood, mind-blowing visions and revelations, sorrow and joy.

For your home ... A selection of Fridge Magnets (various prices)



FINAL IMAGE

The iconic windmills of Patmos.



Wishing you all a wonderful week!

All the best

Thelma Olymbiou

[01622 746513](tel:01622746513)

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10