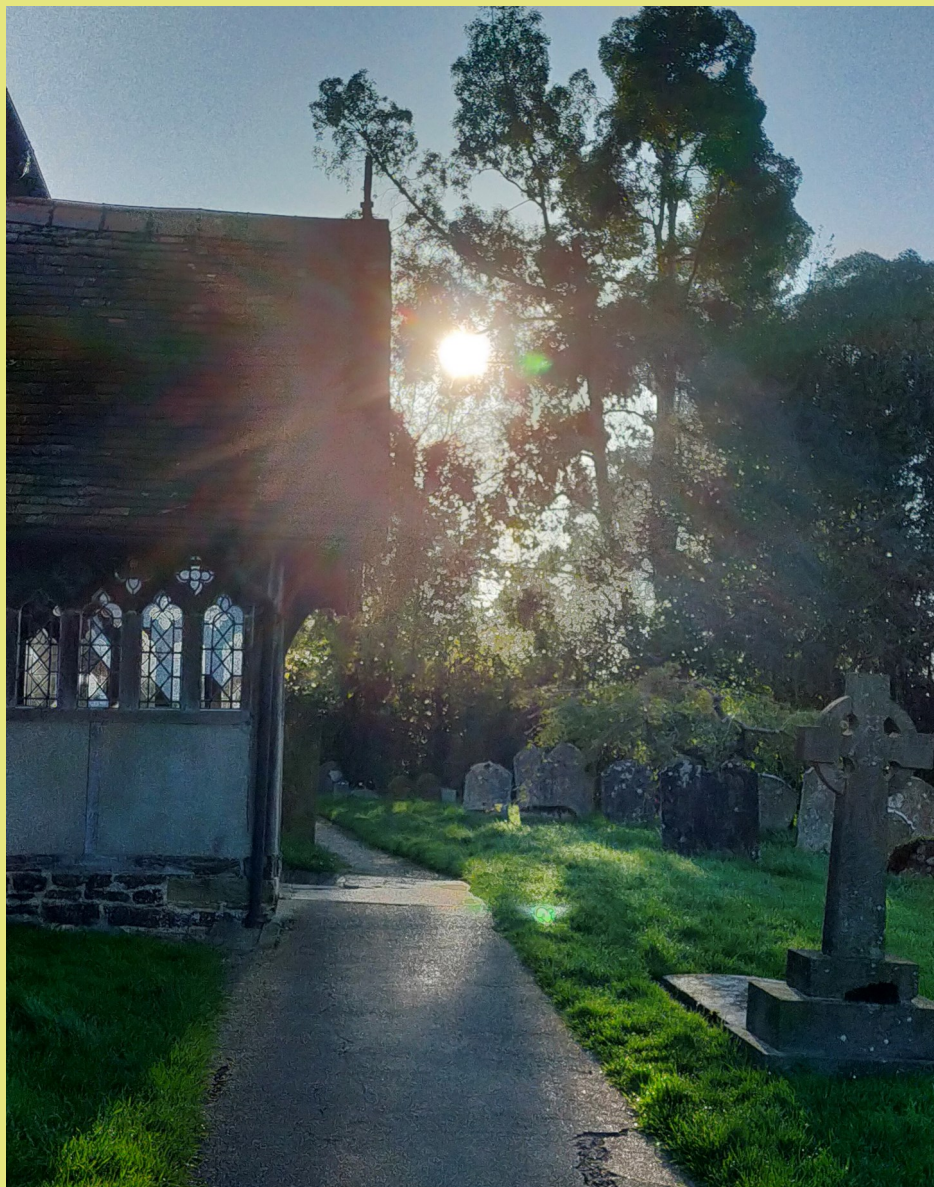


# Rudgwick

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# From the Vicar

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Dear Friends

By the time you read this I hope that the sun is shining, the temperature has picked up, and some of us might even be thinking about wearing shorts and T-shirts rather than thick jumpers! Writing at the start of May it is very cold for the time of year and reminds me of Narnia, where it was said to be ‘always winter, but never Christmas’. If you have never read ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’ by C. S. Lewis, I recommend it to you. If you have seen the film, the book is still well worth a read (or re-read), whatever age you are.

Having promised to bring his siblings, Peter, Susan and Lucy to the White Witch, Edmund fails and is imprisoned by her. Aslan (the lion) secretly offers himself to the White Witch in exchange for Edmund’s life. That night, Susan and Lucy see the White Witch kill Aslan at the Stone Table – giving his life to free Edmund. In the morning, they hear a great cracking noise, and are astounded to see the Stone Table broken. Aslan’s body has vanished. Suddenly the girls hear his voice from behind him – Aslan has risen from the dead; resurrected by a deep magic beyond the White Witch’s understanding. If you know the story, you may remember that Father Christmas’ arrival is a sign that White Witch’s hold on Narnia is waning and spring and then summer, are on their way. At some stage (hopefully by the time you read this) it will get warmer too, spring will be here and summer on its way.

*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* is an allegory – Aslan’s sacrifice, his substitution for Edmund, paralleling what Jesus has done for us: Aslan gave himself for Edmund and Jesus sacrificed himself for you. Peter, Edmund, Susan and Lucy respond by staying in Narnia and looking after it – how will you respond?

Every blessing

Martin King

Cover photo: Rudgwick Churchyard, by Jane Silk