

ST PAUL'S NEWS

April 2023



ONE POUND

SERVICES

We hope to be back at the Parish Church from the start of April but this is not guaranteed. Please see the weekly pew leaflets or the website for up-to-date information.

Sunday 2nd April Palm Sunday

10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)
President: The Vicar

10.00 am Family Service at the
Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Daphne Pilcher,
Link Chris Bassett

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)

Monday 3rd April Monday of Holy Week

8.00 pm Stations of the Cross
Shirley Barter

Tuesday 4th April Tuesday of Holy Week

8.00 pm Compline with Homily
– Rev. Nicholas Burton

Wednesday 5th April Wednesday of Holy Week

8.00 pm Compline with Homily - Daphne Pilcher

Thursday 6th April Maundy Thursday

8.00 pm Eucharist with Stripping of Altars (CW)
President: The Vicar

Friday 15th April Good Friday

9.45 am Procession of Witness in the Village
The Vicar

2.00 pm Devotional Hour - Parish Church
The Vicar

Sunday 9th April Easter Day

10.00 am Eucharist (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Family Service
at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: TBC, Link Susan Powley

6.30 pm Readings and Music for Easter
Minister: The Vicar

Sunday 16th April Second Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Baptisms
President: The Vicar,

10.00 am Family Service with Holy Communion
at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Wendy Anderson,
Link: Rosemary Romano

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

Thursday 20th April

12.00 noon Funeral of Pam Munro at the Parish
Church with the Choir

Sunday 23rd April The Third Sunday of Easter

10.00 am Joint Service of Thanksgiving with
Eucharist & Commissioning of the PCC
President: The Vicar
Preacher: Rev Nicholas Burton

6.30 pm Evensong (CW)
President: Rev Nicholas Burton,

DIARY

Saturday 1st April

6.30 pm Rusthall Community Cinema
The Railway Children Return (2022) PG

Sunday 2nd April

2.00 pm Rusthall Community Cinema
NT Live The Life of Pi 12A

Thursday 13th April

3.00 pm Parish Fellowship
at the Church Centre

Saturday 15th April

6.30 pm Rusthall Community Cinema
Brian and Charles (2022) PG

Thursday 20th April

8.00 pm Parish Meeting followed by APCM
at the Church Centre and via Zoom

Saturday 29th April

6.30 pm Rusthall Community Cinema
Operation Mincemeat (2021) 12

Wednesdays throughout the month

Charlie's Angels Kitchen 12 – 2 pm

Charlie will endeavour to keep the 'pay as you feel' café open for lunches every Wednesday. Whenever possible it will operate from the Church Centre Car Park, if too windy for safety it will move into the Church Hall. You can check dates on her website www.charliesangelskitchens.co.uk

Thursdays throughout the month

12 for 12.30 Rusthall Lunch Club at the
Church Centre

Fridays throughout the month

12.30 pm Community Larder - Church Centre

Magazine Article Deadlines

16th April for May

14th May for June

11th June for July/August

The time between the deadline and magazine issue is to allow for typing, formatting, proofreading, and compiling the magazine. These all take time and have to be fitted around the volunteer editorial team's other commitments. We would therefore be very grateful if you would keep to the deadlines set. Please send items for publication to magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk.

Magazines are posted on the Parish website by the 1st of the month. Photocopies of the magazine will also be made available in our churches for those who cannot access the magazine online. Please contact Ginette di Palma at the Church Office (TW 521447) if you are finding it difficult to access a copy.

From the Vicarage

Dear Friends



Thank you very much for your continued support and hard work. Special thanks to members of the Parish Fellowship for preparing the posies for Mothering Sunday and to the Scouts for their involvement in the planning and delivering of the service, including giving the talk. Thank you also to everyone who attended the service. I know having it in the hall wasn't ideal but that was the most practically realistic place to have it – and I am very pleased that so many of you were able to join us to recognise and give thanks for mothers and mother-figures, for the many roles they fulfil in our homes, communities, societies and the world at large. A big thank-you to the choir also, for 'filling' the hall – and more specifically our hearts with such melodious singing, especially the anthem. It would be remiss of me not to thank Rod Garcia-Fermer and Paul Welch for clearing the side walk to the hall at the Church Centre – in time for the Mothering Sunday service.



And a colossally huge thankyou to everyone who have made financial donations towards the installation of two new boilers and flues at the Parish Church. As you can see from the photo on the left, work is progressing really well and I am now very confident that it will be completed and commissioned in time for Easter. I must thank the family service congregation for the hospitality that they've shown to the Parish church congregation during this period of joint services that I consider to be divinely-orchestrated. Of course, it has not been without its challenges but it has given us the opportunity as a parish to appreciate one another and our worship preferences and to realise that, ultimately, 'we are (all) children of the same heavenly Father'. So I am grateful to our 'heavenly Father' for giving us the opportunity (a week after we spent a day seeking his guidance for the future of the Parish) to worship together for this length of time. I trust that while some of us may breathe a sigh of relief at the end of it, all of us would have been indelibly transformed by God's grace, encouraged by our fellowship together and become more appreciative of one another, and excited about what God is doing among and through us. Indeed, as St. Paul put it 'we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works...' (Ephesians 2:10).

Most of you know that Clive and May are stepping down from being Church Wardens and will therefore not be seeking re-election at our Annual Meeting of Parishioners on the 20th April. In order to show our appreciation to them and for their ministries as Church Wardens, we will be having a joint service at the Parish Church on the 23rd April during which members of the newly elected Parochial Church Council (PCC) will be commissioned. We will also be having a joint Parade service at the Parish Church on the 7th of May to celebrate and give thanks to God for the Coronation of King Charles III.

Recently, I found myself reflecting on the well-known hymn 'Abide with me', believed to have been written in 1820 by Henry Francis Lyte, an Anglican minister. Yes, it is usually sung at funerals but what better hymn could be prayerfully sung during our Lenten journey – which started with the personal reminder that we are 'dust' and urged us to 'turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ'? I find some of the verses that are habitually omitted quite profound and will use two of them now as the basis for my closing prayer.

Gracious Lord and King of kings,
come not in terror but in kindness and goodness;
with healing and the balm of peace.
Compassionate Lord,
soothe our woes and listen to our every plea.
Come, Lord Jesus, Friend of sinners, and abide with me.
Look at me, Dear Lord but not with a flying glance.
Speak to me, Holy One, and please don't make it brief;
be familiar, condescending, patient, and liberating.
Come Lord Jesus not as a visitor but as the divine resident - and abide with me. Amen.

Ronnie

1839 Consort

Directed by Jonathan Crowhurst

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Sunday 2nd April

3.30pm

**St. John's Church,
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Editorial

Snow in March! We could have done without an icy blast while the church heating is out of action! Hopefully April will see the weather really perk up so we can all reduce our expensive heating costs. With luck, by the time you read this, the two new boilers and flues (to work in tandem) will have been (or be in the process of being) installed so that the church can be returned to an acceptable working temperature.

Wherever we are worshipping, April includes Palm Sunday and Easter, so we will be busy. If you start feeling stressed about this, can I recommend Compline? We are very unusual as a church in providing this service, which is extremely short (half an hour at most) but is quiet and contemplative, a lovely way to end the day peacefully. If you have never tried it before, why not give it a try. April also includes remembrance of St George, Patron Saint of England, and two martyred Archbishops of Canterbury, Alphege in 1012 and Anselm in 1109. If you add in Thomas a Becket, murdered in 1170 and remembered each 29th December, you can see that this was a dangerous post to hold at this time.

The Annual Parochial Church and Parish meetings will be held on 20th April. Please make sure that Ginette di Palma has added you to the Parish Roll if you have only recently joined the parish.

After April Fool's Day we have World Autism Day on 2nd April. It is gradually being recognised that far more girls and women have Autistic Spectrum Disorders than previously thought, it was often misdiagnosed as another mental illness such as OCD or anxiety, an eating disorder or bipolar disorder both because girls and women present ASD in different ways to men and boys but also because they can be more successful in masking their problems. Lack of a correct diagnosis means that they don't get the help and support they need. There are several literary commemorative days during April, 2nd is International Children's Book Day, 13th National Scrabble Day, 17th is International Haiku Poetry Day and 23rd is National Shakespeare Day. We can also celebrate unicorns (national animal of Scotland) on the 9th, our wonderful siblings on 10th, World Heritage Day on 18th and Earth Day on 22nd. Muslims will celebrate Eid on 21-22 April, marking the end of their month of fasting during Ramadan.

Are you willing to take part in some citizen science? [I suggest you skip the rest of this paragraph if you are of a nervous disposition]. Zoe, who conducted extensive research into Covid, has now added a section to their App to conduct a survey of the nation's bowel habits. The information used by doctors to decide what is 'normal' comes from a small survey over 20 years ago. Zoe want to do a survey on a much larger scale to bring this information up to date – The Big Poo Review - so if you would be happy to answer questions anonymously online or via their app, which may still be lurking on your phone, please do take part. It only takes about 10 minutes to answer the survey questions.

The picture on the front cover is The Harrowing of Hell, a fresco by Fra Giovanni Angelica, a Dominican friar and Italian Renaissance painter, on a cell wall of the Convent of San Marco in Florence. It shows Jesus after he had 'descended into hell' following his crucifixion. He preached the gospel to the dead and opened the gates of hell for all eternity so that the souls of the righteous were able to ascend to heaven. Jesus reaches out to Adam, Eve behind him with hands crossed, and the scruffy looking man is John the Baptist. A devil has been crushed under the broken gate of hell and Satan slinks off to the left.

All articles for the May magazine to us by 16th April please. Do you have personal memories of the last coronation? We would love to hear them.

Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare

From The Registers

At rest – the sympathy of the Parish is extended to the family and friends of
Claire Jane Beadle
Frank Charles Akehurst
Pam (Pamela Gwyn) Munro
Jean Margaret Steyn

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Churchwarden's Notes



Dear Fellow Parishioners

We have to apologise for misleading you by describing last months' warden's notes as penultimate. Having realised our error, you will be delighted to know that our last warden's notes will be written in April for the May magazine.

Although we are not currently using our Parish church for services we are in regular contact with the heating engineers who we hope will be installing the new boilers by Easter, or possibly even by the end of March.

Hopefully we will be free of major unforeseen holdups in this process.

We are enjoying very much the opportunity to share worship with the Family service and when the heating system is re-established in the Parish church we look forward to welcoming members of the family service to our first joint service which of course we hope to be Easter.

We also look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible at St Paul's APCM on Thursday 20th April 2023 at 8pm at the church centre where we will wish you all a fond farewell as warden's as we revert to blissful anonymity.

Love and Peace

May and Clive

ST PAUL'S 100 CLUB

GREAT NEWS! The Bank Account is now open and we hope to have the first draw next month. Chris Dobson will be contacting all those who have shown interest but please do speak to him at any time to reserve your winning number. The 100 Club bank details are as follows so please set up your Standing Order asap. £10 per number per month.

Bank:	Lloyds (Victoria Branch)
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Sort Code:	30-99-50
Account Number:	45238060

A Musical Note



The last month has been a rather strange one for the choir with all rehearsals and services taking place at the Church Centre rather than at the Parish Church. Since we are without an organ, we have been singing music which works with the piano or singing unaccompanied music. It is of course much easier to sing at the Church Centre than at the Parish Church as we are all closer together and better able to hear each other, but we do have to remember that in the smaller space we don't need to project our voices in the same way as we do in the church.

We have enjoyed being at the church centre but we are hoping to be able to be back in the church for Easter so that we can enjoy singing some exciting Easter anthems accompanied by the organ. Our organists have been amazing during this period with the music changing from the published music list every week meaning that they have had to be incredibly flexible, and also adapt to playing on the piano rather than on the organ. We are so lucky to have such a brilliant group of musicians within our church.

Assuming that we will be able to have Easter Sunday in the Parish Church then at 6.30pm we will have our Service of Readings and Music for Easter followed by celebratory refreshments in the Church. This is one of my favourite services of the year with beautiful readings interspersed with music reflecting the journey through Holy Week. Please do come along to the service if you are able to do so; it would be lovely to see lots of people in the congregation.

On Ash Wednesday, Choral Evensong on Radio 3 was broadcast from St John's College, Cambridge and Alex Robson was the organist. If you didn't catch it at the time then it is still available to listen to on BBC Sounds. Alex was the second member of our choir to be on Choral Evensong in this academic year as back in November, Choral Vespers came from Leeds Cathedral where Cecily Graham is a choral scholar.

Fiona Johnson

Animals of the Bible - Part 3

Wild horses were known around 1750 B.C. in where they are mentioned on a clay tablet which



has been found, although the tablet actually calls them 'asses from the east'. They were around during the time Joseph was in Egypt.

By the time of the Exodus the Egyptians had plenty of chariots drawn by horses. However for the Israelites at this time their best forms of transport were the pack donkeys.

Horses and donkeys are closely related. Both have single hoofs, unlike cattle, sheep and goats. Hoofs are in substance very similar to our finger and toe nails. They are horny and springy and make excellent hard-wearing pads for walking.



Galloping about the grasslands which became dry and hard in summer, they kept their hoofs 'manicured' or worn down to the right length. With too little exercise the hoofs grow too long. Today the farrier has to trim them back and then they are given iron shoes – our horseshoes.

Unlike cattle, horses do not chew the cud and because of this, and the fact that they have single hoofs and not a cloven hoof, the Israelite food laws forbade them to be eaten. However history tells us that in early times horses were in fact eaten by Jews and it is thought that they first 'domesticated' for this purpose. However it was soon found out that they could be used as fast carriers. And it is probably this fact that the Bible mentions them so often in connection with wars and fighting.

When the Israelites were making their way to the Promised Land, Moses had warned them about owning too many horses and trusting in them. At first they seemed to obey, but by the time of David many more were being kept and used. We know that Solomon built up a huge stable of horses,

apparently to show how strong he had become. When archaeologists explored around the town of Megiddo they found enough stables for some 450 horses which were thought to have belonged to Ahab, king of the northern kingdom of Israel. Possibly it was with the thought of war in mind that Moses wished to restrict the number of horses – we shall never know, however since the Israelites lived in mainly hilly country donkeys were far more useful than horses or camels.

When a horse mare is mated with a donkey the result is what we call a mule. In size it is mid-way between parents, with the strength of its mother and the sure-footedness of its father. It can also be very obstinate which probably gave rise to the expression – as



stubborn as a mule. Abraham was riding a mule when he had his unfortunate accident and was caught in the branches of an oak tree. Perhaps the mule's stubbornness was the cause.

Another very useful animal to the Israelites was the ox. Oxen appear early in the Bible. They were among Abraham's possessions which he brought down into Canaan. From some parts of Europe



remains have been found which tell us that the wild ox was an enormous beast standing some six feet high.

We will never know just what Abraham's cattle looked like, but one thing we can be sure of is that they must have been much shorter because we know that, although forbidden, the Israelites used an ox and an ass yoked together for pulling a plough on occasions. This would have been impossible unless they were both of much the same height.

The cattle must have been hardy to come safely through the long desert marches. Once they had arrived in Palestine they would have found grassy slopes among the hills which would have provided good pasturage. We know, from the Bible, that the Hebrews kept cattle for both working and for food production. The word ox and oxen seemed to have been used for both cows and bulls, but probably they mostly refer to the young bulls whose job was to work – pulling the plough or the

harrow, threshing out corn, turning the grinding wheels at the mill and even drawing carts. They were too slow and clumsy to be of much good as pack animals or for riding. We often read of so many 'yoke of oxen' that is pairs used for working, which suggests that this was one of their most useful jobs.

Butter and milk were very valuable to the Israelites, but the quantity which they produced would have been around only a quart or so but it was rich milk with a lot of cream. Tanners soon learnt to turn the skins of cattle into leather to make all sorts of useful articles, especially sandals needed on the hot stony tracks.

Oxen would have been used in Hebrew sacrifices. This did not mean that the meat was wasted or burnt. Some portions were duly offered up and burnt on the altar, but most of the meat went to the owners and priests for food.

Daphne Pilcher

St Paul's Parish Fellowship

Lent Talk

At the beginning of our meeting on 9th March, Zillah Witt, our chair, gave us the sad news that Pam Munro, a longstanding and dear member of the Fellowship had died.

This year we had invited the Rev Dave Bubb, Curate at Christ Church Southborough to give our Lent Talk. Dave introduced himself as a reluctant priest and proceeded to tell us his life story. He did not set out to become a priest but at important crossroads in his life, God's guiding hand was clearly at work. We were engrossed by his account, moved by his compassion, warmth and humour. He spoke very engagingly, and it was a privilege to hear him give such a personal account of his journey. Dave has been Curate at Christ Church Southborough for the past two and a half years and is soon due to move to his first Parish. We wish him well!

Future Dates

Thursday 13 April at 3pm

Peter Allan, 'Mr Garret's Fireside Theatre', history of Drury Lane

Thursday 11 May at 3pm

2.30 Communion in Church Centre, followed by AGM and Coronation Cream Tea.

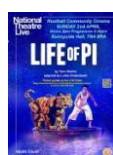


Rusthall Community Cinema



The Railway Children Return (2022) Cert PG

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 1st April 2023
 Director: Morgan Matthews
 Genre: Drama, Adventure, Family
 Runtime: 95 mins
 Starring: Jenny Agutter, John Bradley, Sheridan Smith



National Theatre Live The Life of Pi - Cert 12A

Doors open: 2pm Sunday 2nd April 2023
 Writer: Yann Martel, adapted by Lolita Chakrabarti
 Director: Max Webster
 Genre: Filmed Live Theatre
 Runtime: tba
 Starring: Hiran Abeysekara, Mina Anwar, Raj Ghatak



Brian and Charles (2022) Cert PG

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 15th April 2023
 Director: Jim Archer
 Genre: Comedy
 Runtime: 90 mins
 Starring: David Earl, Chris Hayward, Louise Brealey



Operation Mincemeat (2021) Cert 12

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 29th April 2023
 Director: John Madden
 Genre: Drama, War
 Runtime: 128 mins
 Starring: Colin Firth, Matthew Macfadyen, Kelly Macdonald



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The Cross of the World

Something of a quandary for me in writing for the April Magazine as I really wanted something encompassing for Easter. Then it came to me **The Cross**. On the one hand this could have been a sermon for Good Friday but on the other the Cross is at the centre of our faith and so entirely suitable as we focus on it at Eastertide.

When we think of the cross I wonder which image comes into our minds. After all we have probably seen thousands of crosses over the years. Most Churches have a Brass cross on the altar. Then there is the wooden cross so symbolic, particularly on Good Friday. My favourite is the glass cross hanging in the Canon Norman Mantle Chapel. If you have ever sat there it has something of a life of its own. It revolves when the draught catches it and it seems to say to me that in so doing it encompasses the whole world.

Given how the cross has become so widespread, even as a fashion accessory, it would be easy to be in danger of becoming over familiar with it, and consequently reducing its scale and potency, perhaps over domesticating it. One of my most embarrassing moments when interviewing a young lady for a secretarial post was when I noticed that she wore a cross around her neck and I foolishly asked if she was a Christian and she replied 'Oh, is that what the cross means'. I felt foolish but the happy sequel is that she became my secretary in time and was really excellent. She married a Canadian and emigrated to Canada where she lives with her husband and family. We are still in touch. These days I would have probably been accused of something I did not mean but there it is.

The story does illustrate that getting too familiar with the cross is dangerous. The cross towers over the world and over time, dominating history. Perhaps we may need to step back to see the mighty cross for what it is. If we allow ourselves to get too familiar with the cross, we are actually going against what the Gospel writers tell us. All four Gospels tell a very reticent story: facts, and some details, but no lurid pictures or emotions; no commentary, no explanations. Just the story. In addition, it is actually hard to get close to the cross because it isn't part of our world or our experience.

Many of you might have seen the film "The Passion of the Christ". Not an easy watch because it depicts the terrible reality and violence of the Crucifixion. We do need a certain amount of distance from the cross to see what was going on. There is an expression 'seeing the wood from the trees'. Quite an apt saying as far as my golf goes but it is much the same with the cross. If we get too close we lose all sense of proportion.

If we do get too close we run the risk of trying to take it as our possession, and those of us who like our history know that this is the case from the Spanish Inquisition to the Jihadists. If we try to define the truth alone, and then possess it and guard it, all hope is lost. The bigger truth is that the cross is not for private ownership, it towers over everything, it towers over the landscape of time and is simply not for sale. The cross is God offering the whole Godself to the whole world. Just as it was 2000 years ago, Christ died for the world, not for the Church; and in the marketplace, not just in the Church. We must not try to possess such a great gift which is meant for all humanity.

While we might be wise not to get too close, too familiar, if Jesus brings his cross close to us that is another matter. People like our own St Paul and indeed St Francis were physically marked by it. In times of pain or disaster countless people have found that the suffering Christ has come close to them. Maybe it has happened to you. In those times of sadness all we can do is hang on, without words, to the figure on the cross, it is sufficient. We are sustained as Christ comes close.

The Gospel writers were simply brilliant in their restraint; they were masters of suspense as the manner of Christ's death becomes the glory of his resurrection.

This Easter may we remember that the cross is open to the whole world, plunging to our depths and lifting us to God's heights, reaching out to embrace all peoples. Let us not set limits where God has set none. So this Easter may we not let Christ's Church embody his love in its life, and lock it up within its walls.

Let us at Easter remember and celebrate the fact that Christ calls each of us by name to take up and follow the cross wherever and whenever we find ourselves needing reassurance of our faith.

The transition from death to Christ is so brilliantly captured in these words from Gregory of Nazianzus:-

Yesterday I was crucified with Christ;
today I am glorified with time.
Yesterday I was dead with Christ;
today I am sharing his resurrection.
Yesterday I was buried with him;
today I am waking with him from the
sleep of death.

May I wish you all the Happiest of Easters and let us all follow the Cross of the World.

Tim Cripps



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Holidays are on a weekly basis only in high season, but short breaks may be possible at other times.

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Income from magazine sales is important to us at St Paul's. If everyone paid the £1 cover charge we would raise over £1500 a year, which would not only cover the cost

of producing the magazine but also contribute to other costs such as leasing the photocopier.

If you often find yourself fumbling for the right change, perhaps you might like to pay in advance for a year's "subscription", 10 issues for the sum of £10, (you might even feel tempted to be more generous!) Your contributions are much appreciated.

Please make cheques payable to St Paul's Church, Rusthall and send them to the Parish Office

Down the Garden Path

As I write this, it is snowing, blowing, sleet is getting ready to repeat its onslaught of an hour ago and I am topping up my heating bill! So let's pretend I am writing this at the same time that you are reading it...

What a lovely day it is – warm sunshine, blue sky and lots of flowers enjoying the springtime weather. Perfect!

Back to reality ... can anyone help me to find this plant, or at least its name? Last year I grew a lovely *Thunbergia* – a variant of 'Black-eyed Susan'; instead of being the usual yellow with a black eye, it was a dark orange colour and very vigorous. Its name was something like 'Mexican Sunrise' or 'African Skies'. I did not save some seed but it hasn't germinated.

I am surprised to see so many flowers blooming and actually being enhanced by the snow. I have



several groups and varieties of dwarf *Iris reticulata*. I use quite a few odd containers as plant pots and am delighted by a group of bright blue *Iris* flowering happily in a big, old colander topped with snow.

Following advice on T.V. and in gardening magazines, I have started sowing seeds, some saved from last year and a few new-to-me from shops. Talking about the latter – why do the pictures on the packets look so much more promising than the five or six tiny black seeds which are hiding in the corner and fall on the floor unless very carefully extracted?

As well as Daffodils, Primroses, Violas and a few other hesitant plants, I have three shrubs which are giving me pleasure; all three are very fragrant whenever the temperature is not too cold. The smallest is *Sarcococca*, blooming modestly but smelling beautifully by my



front door. Scrambling happily is a Winter Honeysuckle – *Lonicera fragrantissima* and the



most sturdy bush is *Viburnum bodnantense* 'Dawn' which is described in my book as being 'virtually sterile'! I have no idea what that means!! Oh the joy of gardening and finding out (or not!)



Don't forget to tell me if you know the full name of my *Thunbergia*! Thanks!!

Elsie Emes

ST PAUL'S YOUTH COUNCIL

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St Paul's Youth Council is a forum for everyone aged 10-18 who live or participate in the life of the Parish.

- A safe place to discuss amongst your peers the issues and challenges you all face.
- Working together to develop solutions to those issues
- Build partnerships and friendships through effective communication, mutual respect and lots of fun
- Develop lifelong leadership skills

Please see the full page advert and use the QR code or contact Jean Kerr or Angela Culley for details

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tunbridgewells@welhamjones.co.uk



Poems for April

In the Northern hemisphere, where Easter and Springtime are closely entwined, nature shows us that death and hardship may herald vibrant new life. We see this in the following poems by the Scottish author, Kenneth Steven.

Susan Barber

The Carpenter

for three years he did nothing but work with wood;
he'd served his apprenticeship, root and branch,
could smooth the roughness from damaged goods
and cut to the living heart

the sap that ran him was pure
flowed through hands and words
a whole song, so they marvelled
at something they'd never heard

except he was just too good:
in the end they took his own tools,
killed him on a hill
with wood and nails

three days he lay
a seed in sleeping earth, until
he burst open, back and beautiful –
here, and here, and here, and here.



Daffodils

They flurry over the first raw green of the hills,
Trumpet the Easter fields;
Bright flags with their orange yolks
Bending under the flaying cruelty of April winds.

As if to prove that Calvin got it wrong,
That dark-lipped Luther in the cold austerity of history
Threw away the warm laughter of love
For the bare bones of theology.



The Miracle

It was over. They left Jerusalem in the dead of
night;
no light alive, the grey rock of the last days
raw and jagged in their throats.
They were fishermen, went back, broken
to the only thing they knew, to Galilee.

And all night nothing;
the skies aubergine, a piling of bruised clouds,
the lake eerie and moonless, creeping with shadows,
the cold leaking into feet and hands like leprosy.

Dawn was a wound in the east, a gash,
the twist of a rusted knife.
And there a figure on the shore beside a fire,
someone who seemed to wait for them.
They drugged up the boats, deep into dry sand.
He spoke to them with his eyes,
gave them pieces of smoky fish.

They knew him when he called them by their
names.





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Saturday 1 April
Saturday 6 May
Saturday 3 June
10am - 12.30pm



BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL

Lots of lovely produce for sale:
homemade pasties, cakes, scones, free range eggs,
bread, bird food, flowers, preserves,
handmade pottery, and lots, lots more.

Also enjoy a delicious tea/coffee with a piece of
homemade cake or scone.

If you are interested in having a stall in the future please
contact: Jacki 01892 740337

*Blackham Village Hall is a registered charity whose sole
purpose is to promote and maintain the hall for the enjoyment
of and benefit of the community*



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to discuss your needs

Autobiography of a Yogi

'Autobiography of a Yogi' is one of the great spiritual books of the 20th century. It was written by Swami Yogananda Paramahansa and describes his life from early childhood in India to his final days on the west coast of the United States.

It is one of the very few books I have read more than once, because it contains so much wisdom and can be referred to for advice and meaningful quotes.

The book begins in 1893, when Yogananda was born in India. His parents were very different. His mother kind-hearted and his father quite strict. The latter held down a job of some responsibility, which meant that there was enough money to bring up eight children. There is not total harmony within the family, there is friction between Yogananda and his elder brother, and the level of spiritual belief and commitment varies from one child to the others. Yogananda describes moments of unrealistic yearning for the Himalayas and various sorties, which are devoid of common sense.

The great turning point in his life occurred when he met his guru, Sri Yukteswar, a jnavatar, an avatar of wisdom. The latter's long-term aim was to remove all ego from his mostly willing student, but here again there are some tense moments, when Yogananda defies the advice and instructions of his teacher. Eventually, however, the student is ready for the huge step of going to America, where he is to be a delegate for India at an international conference in 1920. He stayed for three years and after a brief return to India he went on an intercontinental tour of the United States, during which he gave lectures on various aspects of yoga. This fulfilled another desire of his guru, namely to draw East and West together.

The key year for his time in America came in 1925, when he established a headquarters in Los Angeles. Throughout the book Yogananda meets a number of remarkable people and one, Luther Burbank, impresses him enormously. Luther is a world-famous horticulturalist, who is 'a man without guile' and whose simple lifestyle is a lesson for us all. One aspect of his work was plant evolution and a process he developed to cross or graft plants is in Webster's dictionary.

In 1935 Yogananda returned to India, via Europe. He toured the British Isles in a large American car, accompanied by his secretary, who kept a detailed diary of their exploits. During this trip they met Therese Neumann, a catholic stigmatist, who did

not eat, and later Mahatma Gandhi, whose ideas impressed Yogananda. The concept of non-violence, which 'stemmed from forgiveness and love', and Gandhi's spirit of enquiry and open-mindedness found a profound echo in the yoga master.

We are given insights into the wisdom of India and some of its inhabitants. Few westerners have heard of J.C. Bose, a great scientist, who was a physicist, botanist and the inventor of the crescscope, but he never exploited his inventions commercially.

There are many other characters, who seem to live in a dream world. Ideas such as bilocation, levitation and the understanding of synchronicity feature. Yogis, who do not need to eat or who do not sleep.

If you want to read this stunning book, then please do so with an open mind and learn from the simple way of life propounded by many of the characters. There is also wisdom on how to lead a balanced life, based on a committed search for God.

Chris Reece

ST PAUL'S SUMMER FAYRE



SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY 17th JUNE
at THE CHURCH CENTRE
11am to 2pm

The Summer Fayre which will include a BBQ, various games, plants, cakes and a jumble sale.

Please contact Jean Kerr or Angela Culley if you are able to help.

ST PAUL'S

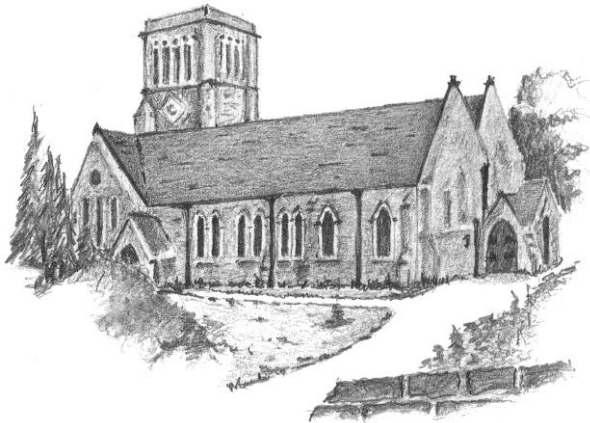
100

NUMBERS £10 PER MONTH

PRIZES £100 1ST

£60 2ND

£40 3RD



NUMBERS AVAILABLE
FROM CHRIS DOBSON
ON 07757 680165



COMMUNITY LARDER

What is it?

A community larder receives surplus short date food from supermarkets to offer to people in our community.

When and where is it?

Our community larder will be in the St Paul's Church Centre every Friday between 12:30pm and 2:00pm

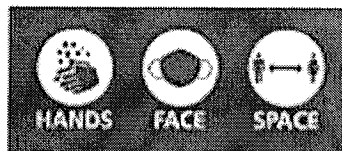
Who can use it?

Anyone can come and visit the community larder. There are no restrictions, no booking necessary, just turn up with a carrier bag to fill.

How much does it cost?

We suggest a small cash donation of £2, or as much as you can afford. For this, you can take away a bag full of quality food.

Please help us all stay safe by wearing a face mask, respecting social distancing and using the hand sanitiser provided.

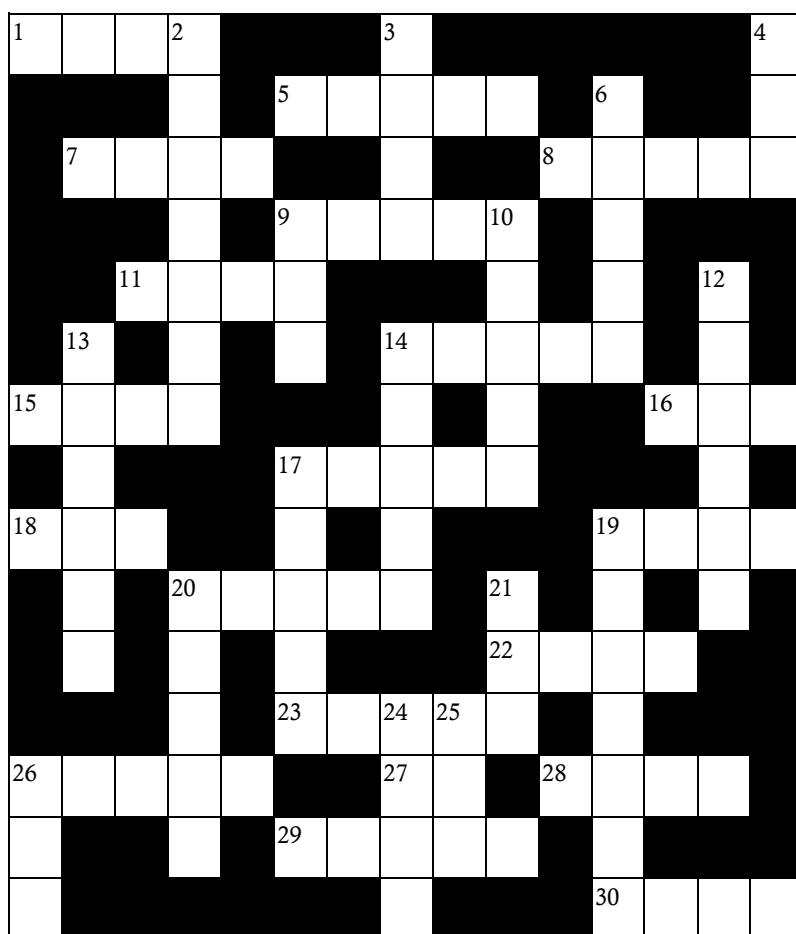


WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!

**For more information, please email contact@rusthallvillage.org
or telephone 07805 475397**

Activity Pages

All About The Weather



Clues Across

1. Sudden blast of wind
5. Dangerous type of ice on roads
7. Block of ice in the sea
8. This type of cloud describes sudden downpour
9. Often lots of these in March
11. Misty appearance due to heat
14. Avoid doing this under a tree in a thunderstorm
15. When it is this temperature or less its freezing
16. Thick mist
17. Light, fleecy piece of snow
18. The earth revolves around this
19. Storm in the desert
20. Stifling or very humid
22. Sound of waterfall after heavy rain
23. Ground reduced to this after a drought
26. Melting snow
27. A cold wind usually blows from this direction (abbreviation)
28. Wrap up well when the wind comes from here
29. In the bleak mid-winter, how hard is water
30. What might indicate the time in sunny weather.

Clues Down

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A whirlwind 3. Moisture falling to the ground 4. The temperature we hope for in summer 6. Hot and damp 9. We become this when it rains 10. Where go to keep cool 12. Type of frost 13. Heavy downpour 14. Happens to buildings in an earthquake | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. Result of excess rainfall 19. Shore plant used for weather forecasting 20. Describe a fresh, bright autumn day 21. Opposite of 9 down 24. Condensed and frozen vapour 25. Number which describes storm on the Beaufort scale 26. What you might do in the shade |
|--|---|

Twenty Questions to Test You

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which planet has moons called Miranda, Titania and Oberon 2. What was Charles Darwin's major work of 1859 called 3. Cherubim and Seraphim are what kind of creatures 4. Who painted the Mona Lisa 5. What colour is Mr Nosey of the Mr Men 6. Where was the birthplace of King David 7. In which town did Jesus grow up 8. Which bird did Noah send out of the Ark first 9. Where was Jesus praying on the night before his death 10. How many books are there in the Old Testament | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. LOT is the airline of which country 12. What is the principal ingredient of the Greek dish saganaki 13. Williams, Comice, Conference are all sorts of what kind of fruit 14. Whom did John Wilkes Booth assassinate 15. What does a digitabulist collect 16. Name the three sons of Noah 17. What does the Feast of the Passover remember 18. Name the mountain where the ark rested After the flood 19. Who was the husband of Elisabeth, cousin of Mary, mother of Jesus 20. Name the three gifts brought by the wise men |
|---|--|

Fit the five letter shapes into the grid below and you will get the names of ten well-known names of people in the Bible.

	S	
A	A	S
	M	

	J	
A	O	A
	S	

S	I
	A
N	M

	U	
E	E	E
	L	

H	S
	H
R	A

J	T
A	
H	A

S	M
	I
M	R

E	M
L	
I	R

E	E
	L
T	I

D	R
A	
N	C

J	T
A	
H	A

I	H
E	
L	L

	E	
H	P	O
	H	

Flora and Fauna Worldwide

A Crossword with a difference where the last letter of an answer is the first letter of the next answer

- The world's largest hopping animal
- Israel was the origin of this fruit
- Snake-like fish
- Beetle often recognised by its red colour and black spots
- Australian wild dog
- These fruits are often used as an aperitif
- This bird might be House or Hedge
- This creature is said to howl to the moon.
- Look for this creature in or near a pond
- A game bird well known in Scotland
- Tree suffering from a 'Dutch' disease
- In some ways similar to a butterfly
- African River Horse
- Emblem of Ireland
- According to the song this bird sits in an old gum tree
- Hardly the partner of Dec
- Striped big cat
- Bird found at the Tower of London
- According to the old song sang in Berkeley Square
- She said goodbye to the Circus
- Spring flower from Amsterdam
- Mountain lion
- Remains of a tree when the fire is out
- Tree – popular Christmas decoration
- Tree found in Churchyards

- Stinging insect
- Flightless bird from Antarctica
- Lizard-like amphibian
- Emblem of Scotland
- Bird might be golden

1								2				
				11		12			13			3
10	16		17					18				
						22		23				4
		21					28			19		
9				30				24				
								29				
			27									
8					26		25					
				20								
		15							14			5
			7						6			

How the Months got their Names – Part 1

Having found out how the days of the week got their names we can now think about the months.

APRIL comes from a word meaning to open. The Romans gave it this name because it is the month when trees and flowers begin to open their buds. April is often a very beautiful time so far as nature is concerned and so during this month the Romans worshipped Venus, the Goddess of Beauty.

MAY This month is named after the goddess Maia. The first day of the month was known as Maia's Day. She was the goddess of the fields and under her the meadows grew rich and beautiful. She was also the mother of Mercury, the god of rain and wind and he helped her to take care of the meadows. He sent rain to water them and wind to blow away the clouds so that the sun might shine.

Mercury was also the messenger of the gods and he could travel faster than the wind because Jupiter, the ruler of the gods, had given him magic wings for his feet and a cap with magic wings for his head. He was greatly honoured by the Romans and festivals for him and for Maia were held throughout May.

ANSWERS

Crossword – All about the weather

Across

1 Gust 5 Black 7 Berg 8 Burst 9 Winds 11 Haze 14 Stand
15 Zero 16 Fog 17 Flake 18 Sun 19 Sand 20 Close 22 Roar
23 Dusty 26 Slush 27 NE 28 West 29 Stone 30 Dial

Down

2 Tornado 3 Rain 4 Hot 6 Humid 9 Wet 10 Shade 12 Ground
13 Deluge 14 Shake 17 Flood 19 Seaweed 20 Crisp 21 Dry 24 Snow
25 Ten 26 Sit

The Ten Well Known Bible People

Reading from left to right in the vertical columns

Elijah Martha Joseph Samson Miriam Daniel Rachel Samuel Esther Elisha

Twenty questions to test you

1. Uranus 2. On the Origin of Species 3. Angels 4. Leonardo da Vinci 5. Green
6. Bethlehem 7. Nazareth 8. Raven 9. Gethsemane 10. 39 11. Poland
12. Cheese 13. Pears 14. Abraham Lincoln 15. Thimbles 16. Shem, Ham and Japhath
17. The Hebrews escaping from slavery in Egypt 18. Ararat 19. Zachariah
20. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

Flora and Fauna World Wide

1. Kangaroo 2. Orange 3. Eel 4. Ladybird 5. Dingo 6. Olives
7. Sparrow 8. Wolf 9. Frog 10. Grouse 11. Elm 12. Moth
13. Hippopotamus 14. Shamrock 15. Kookaburra 16. Ant 17. Tiger 18. Raven
19. Nightingale 20. Elephant 21. Tulip 22. Puma 23. Ash 24. Holly
25. Yew 26. Wasp 27. Penguin 28. Newt 29. Thistle 30. Eagle

General Information

Organisations

Vicar Rev Ronnie Williams, The Vicarage, Bretland Road, Rusthall	521357
Reader Miss Daphne Pilcher	521691
Churchwardens Mr Clive McAllister Miss May Graves	532817 680274
Deputy Churchwardens Mr Graeme Anderson Mrs Susan Powley Mrs Margaret Brown Mr Chris Dobson	532922 545067 680455 539539
Parochial Church Council Secretary Mrs Mione Palmer	667951
Treasurer and Planned Giving Mrs Pat Cripps	521447
Safeguarding Officer Miss Daphne Pilcher	521691
DBS Officer Clive Brown c/o the Parish Office	521447
Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary Vivienne Sharp	543263
Choir Leader Miss Fiona Johnson	07540 273303
Magazine Editors Deborah Bruce, Sue Hare and Mione Palmer c/o the Parish Office email – magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk	
Flower Arrangers Mrs Daphne Hodges	533492
Parish Hall Bookings Enquiries to Parish Office	521447
Rusthall St Paul's Primary School Executive Headteacher – John Tutt	520582

Churchyards

Enquiries to the Parish Office

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

All worshippers who are baptised members of the Church of England, and aged over 16, should have their names entered on the Electoral Roll. This entitles them to attend and vote at the Annual Parochial Meeting. Forms for enrolment will be found in the Parish Church or the Parish Office and should be sent to the Vicar.

Julian Group Mrs Pat Stevens	529187
St Paul's Parish Fellowship Mrs Zillah Witt (Chair) Vacancy (Secretary)	523028
Group Scout Leader Gavin Cons Email – rusthallscoutgroup@gmail.com	
Scout Membership Secretary Merissa Patrick Email – rusthallscoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk	
Beavers: beaversrusthall@gmail.com	
Cubs: rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk	
Scouts: rusthallscouts@gmail.com	
Guide Senior Section Helen Deller	07720 252481
Guide Guiders Gemma Bradley	07377 061398
Brownie Guiders Mrs Wendy Anderson (Thurs) Ms Tina Francis (Mon)	532922 545877
Rainbows Mrs Mary Saunders Email – saundii@aol.com	319872
Mothers and Toddlers Mrs Annie Softley	548366
Rusthall Lunch Club Mrs Ros Rodwell	01892 618538
Rusthall Community & Youth Project Barry Edwards	680296
Rusthall Village Association Alex Britcher	07967 011467
Rusthall Parish Council Council Clerk	07805 475397
Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee Annie Softley	548366
Friends of TW and Rusthall Common Clive Evans	534040



The Parish Office

Parish Administrator - Mrs Ginette di Palma

St Paul's Parish Office, Church Centre, Rusthall Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN4 8RE

Telephone (01892) 521447

Registered Charity in England & Wales, Number 1132681

Office email: office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Magazine email: magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Website: www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

The Office is open on weekday mornings (except Tuesdays) between 10 am and 1 pm.