

# ST PAUL'S NEWS

February 2023



ONE POUND

## SERVICES

### Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February

#### Candlemas

#### Third Sunday Before Lent

- 10.00 am Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar  
Minister: Rev. Nicholas Burton
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre  
+ Zoom  
Lead: Wendy Anderson,  
Link: Rosemary Romano
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)  
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

### Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February

#### Second Sunday Before Lent

- 10.00 am Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher:  
Rev. Nicholas Burton  
Minister: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre  
+ Zoom  
Lead: Susan Powley,  
Link: Daphne Pilcher
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)  
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February

- 1.00 pm Memorial Service for Claire Mannion at  
the Parish Church with the Choir  
Minister: The Vicar

### Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February

#### Sunday Next Before Lent

- 10.00 am Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre  
+ Zoom  
Lead: Liz Goddard  
Link: Chris Bassett
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)  
Minister & Preacher:  
Rev. Nicholas Burton

### Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

#### Ash Wednesday

- 8.00 pm Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes  
President & Preacher: The Vicar

### Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February

#### First Sunday of Lent

- 10.00 am Matins (BCP)  
Minister & Preacher:  
Rev. Nicholas Burton
- 10.00 am Family Service with Holy Communion  
at the Church Centre  
+ Zoom  
President : The Vicar,  
Link: Chris Bassett
- 6.30 pm Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar

## DIARY

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February

- 3.00 pm Parish Fellowship at the Church Centre

### Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February

- 8.00 pm PCC meeting in the Lodge

### 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](http://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

12 February for March

12 March for April

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](mailto:magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk).

Magazines are posted on the Parish website by the  
1<sup>st</sup> 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 Editorial Team

We are now settling in to 2023, though I still have to think hard before writing 2023, it doesn't come automatically yet – much like the Evensong response which asks 'God save the King' which can still be heard as God save the Quing in even the most prestigious settings. The snow before Christmas gave way to a lot of wet weather and then some beautiful winter days with frost and sunshine. I usually love this weather, but when my car broke down and I had to sit in it from 6.45 pm to 3 am without any heat and an ever-falling external temperature I experienced the downside of it. I had been visiting my son and luckily had a duvet with me, he also brought me supper and a hot water bottle which helped make the wait more bearable. Without them I hate to think how cold I would have been. It did make me think of the plight of those having to live without proper heat and shelter. While waiting for the AA I noticed how many cars came past me with no rear lights on. Talking about it, Sue and I think it is because some daylight running lights only turn on the front lights and not the rear. It is something I will have to test out once I get my car back from the garage - unless you are being followed by a friend or helped to reverse out you don't necessarily know whether your rear lights are on. I also spotted several cars going the other way, which was not good as it was a one-way street, and umpteen completely unlit cyclists who would have been upsetting the car drivers.

February is the shortest month of the year – thank goodness many would say as it is usually cold and dark. It does, however, contain some important dates in the church year. February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Candlemass, or the Presentation of Christ in the Temple, the meeting between Simeon and the young Jesus that is recalled every time we sing the Nunc Dimittis. We then proceed towards Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day – and the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Several saints are remembered during the month, the most obvious being St Valentine as cards are already in the shops. Goodness knows how he came to be associated with lovers (and birds) except he was executed in Rome on 14<sup>th</sup> February 269 in the short reign of Claudius II and mid February was the time when Romans held a pastoral festival known as Lupercalia to purify the city and promote health and fertility. He was a priest imprisoned because of the help he had given to Christians in Rome and while in prison he restored the sight of the daughter of the chief warder, then converted and baptised the warder and his family. This enraged the emperor who ordered his execution.

February is Black History Month and on 17<sup>th</sup> February we remember Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda. He was killed by Idi Amin in 1977 for protesting against the regime's practice of arbitrary killings and unexplained disappearances. He was publicly accused of treason and of planning a coup, along with 2 cabinet ministers, Erinayo Wilson Oryema and Charles Oboth Ofumbi. The official report stated that the 3 died in a car accident while being transported back to an interrogation centre, but their bodies were riddled with bullets and a Human Rights Commission later determined that they had been killed by Amin's right-hand man, Isaac Maliyamungu. Luwum is one of the more recent martyrs included among the collection of 20<sup>th</sup> century martyrs on the front facade of Westminster Abbey. In Uganda 16<sup>th</sup> February is celebrated as Archbishop Janani Luwum Day.

If your New Year's Resolutions included a plan to improve your fitness, why not try a Ramblers Wellbeing Walk. There are 2 starting from outside the Church Centre during February, on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am. These are shorter walks, taking under an hour, designed to get people moving.

There are local elections coming up in May. A law change means that voters in person will need to bring a form of photo identification with them. This could be a passport (it does not have to be valid but the photograph must be recognizable), photo driving licence, KCC Bus Pass, Blue Badge, biometric immigration card or EEA Photo ID Card. If you don't have any of these documents you should either apply by Tuesday 2<sup>th</sup> April for a Voter Authority Certificate from gov.uk or request a postal vote from tunbridgewells.gov.uk. There is no charge either way but it is important to arrange this soon if you want to be able to vote.

The parish has just lost two members who were regular and valued contributors to this magazine, Billy Everett and Muriel Reeves. An obituary for Billy is included in this magazine. Muriel will be remembered for her Women's Fellowship reports and her organisation of the Rusthall Bonfire and Fireworks from 1977. Billy wrote a monthly Prayer Diary and contributed many, many other articles each month. Both were heavily involved with Guiding, so perhaps we should remember them by contemplating the World Thinking Day theme of 'Our World, Our Peaceful Future' on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

If you have an article for the March magazine, please submit it by Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare**

## From the Vicarage

Dear Friends

Thank you very much for your continued involvement in and support of the life, mission and ministry of the parish. It was very encouraging to see some of you at the Day of Prayer for the future of the Parish. I know some of you prayed at home while we were at the Church Centre. It was quite a positive time with a very warm and cordial atmosphere and, thanks to Daphne Pilcher and Pat Cripps, the lunch and refreshments were greatly appreciated by everyone. The points and issues raised during the periods of reflection facilitated by Daphne Pilcher will most definitely be acted upon. So as not to lose the momentum, the Wardens and I have agreed to get a small committee together to discuss these concerns and present a condensed version to the Parochial Church Council (PCC). Please continue to pray about the future of the parish. I wrote a prayer specifically for the day which I will share with you at the end of my piece.

Two years ago a few of us used the 'Living in Love and Faith' course for our Lent studies. Although some initially expressed concerns about the suitability of the course for Lent, it was soon embraced as an appropriate material to study in Lent as it dealt with pertinent components and issues relating to our identity and sense of belonging to the household of faith and as beloved children of God. That course which dealt with personal identity, human sexuality, relationships and marriage was part of a process of 'listening, learning and discernment' about these issues. The House of Bishops have now published the material that will be presented to General Synod in February regarding the 'next steps for the Living in Love and Faith process'. The bishops have also publicly apologised to Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or questioning), and intersex. (LGBTQI+) people 'for the way in which the Church has rejected or excluded them, admitting: "We have not loved you as God loves you, and that is profoundly wrong."'

Please continue to pray for those who have been adversely affected by the church's stance in the past, that this would bring about healing, restoration and peace, and for those who are still struggling to accept or embrace this change. A book entitled *'Prayers of Love and Faith'* with draft worship resources which could be used in various services and church settings will also be discussed by General Synod.

Although 'the formal teaching on marriage' by the Church of England 'as set out in the canons and authorised liturgies' has not changed, "this resource will represent a significant move that is intended as a loving and celebratory response to same-sex couples who are cherished and deeply valued by the Church", and "offer clergy a variety of flexible ways to affirm and celebrate same-sex couples in church, and will include prayers of dedication, thanksgiving and for God's blessing." I eagerly and prayerfully await the decision of General Synod and look forward to celebrating within the church the demonstration of God's love and human commitment in a way that had been hitherto forbidden.

I was going to comment on the publication of the report commissioned by the Church of England on its involvement in the slave trade but I have almost run out of space. Suffice to state that the report found that the Church knowingly 'invested significant amounts in the slave-trading South Sea Company in the 18th century'. As a way of offering redress, the Church Commissioners have committed one hundred million pounds sterling (£100,000,000) to 'address the wrongs of links to the slave trade', stating that the money will be used to 'invest in communities affected by past slavery, and conduct research and engagement related to the church's ties to slavery'. I am up for restitution and reconciliation but really wonder whether this is just an exercise on 'conscience assuaging'.

I'll end with the prayer for our Day of Prayer.

Gracious and loving God,

We are calling on you today, as members of St Paul's Parish, Rusthall,  
and as part of the Christian community that bears your name across your world.

We thank you for establishing your church in this place and for making us part of it.

We thank you for the many ways you have provided for this parish of Rusthall over the years, and  
for the many faithful stewards who have served you in this place.

We are grateful for their legacy and fully aware that your continual presence within and around  
them, and your divine provisions sustained and enabled them to flourish and make such a difference  
in your name.

As you know, Lord, we are currently having severe financial challenges  
that threaten the future of St Paul's Rusthall.

Your word reminds us to not only acknowledge you as God over all situations, including our  
problems, but to readily seek your guidance and not be rash in our decision making.

You've promised to be with us, Lord. Guide us through this period. Help us to accept your  
guidance and enable us to collectively hear what you might be saying to us so that, together, we may  
fulfil your will for this parish, to your praise and for your glory.

Amen.

Ronnie



### **From The Registers**

#### **Baptism**

We welcome as newly baptised members of the Church:

Zevi Rex Gilmore

#### **At Rest**

The sympathy of the Parish is extended to the family and friends of:

Muriel Reeves

Hilary 'Billy' Anne Everett

Shane Dean Sands

Josephine 'Betty' Brooker





# 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**

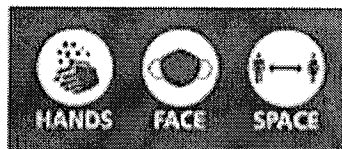
**Who can use it?**

**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.**



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**WE'D LOVE TO SEE YOU!**

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or telephone 07805 475397**

## Churchwarden's Notes



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We hope you have all had a calm peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and are looking forward to the challenges of this new year. Our hopes for this year are tinged with sadness with the passing of Billy Everett a long time and active supporter of St Paul's.

We are however very relieved to have a functioning boiler at the Parish church. And we thank those of you that attended the Parish church during the five-week period of the boiler's inactivity.

The one positive element of having a stone-cold church was to prolong the life of the marvellous floral decorations created by our small but very dedicated flower team.

As usual the winter snow and rain have managed to find even more holes in our roof which we had hoped had been successfully plugged. Buckets have again been deployed where possible whilst we await further repairs.

We are also looking forward to Candlemas when the Parish church will yet again be illuminated, not only by the glow of our fellowship but also with candles blazing from everywhere. Hopefully the boiler will still be running, and we hope that everyone who can attend will enjoy a warm as well as spiritual experience.

Love and Peace

**May and Clive**

## Aubergine vs Eggplant

Have you wondered why the Aubergine is called an Eggplant in America? I found it very odd until I spotted this picture of a variety of white eggplants and suddenly the 'egg' is obvious.



The plant is actually a native of Asia, though precisely where is disputed. It seems to have been brought to the Mediterranean region by the Ottomans during the middle ages, but Britain was just too cold unless they were grown under glass. As it is a member of the nightshade family (like tomatoes and potatoes) it was once feared that aubergines were poisonous, due to the presence of solanine. However, by the time the fruit ripens the levels have dropped to a non-toxic level, although the leaves and stems should not be eaten. I say fruit because although we use it as a vegetable, it is technically a berry!

**Deborah Bruce**

## In a Vacuum

A guy was playing Trivial Pursuit one night. It was his turn. He rolled the dice and landed on Science and Nature. His question was, 'If you are in a vacuum and someone calls your name, can you hear it? He thought for some time and then asked, 'Is it on or off?'

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## Obituary

### Hilary Anne Everett

28<sup>th</sup> November 1933 –  
29<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Known to everyone as Billy, it was, as is so often the case, only during the Service of Thanksgiving held at the Chapel of St Augustine at Tonbridge School that I came to learn many of the details of her long life.

Born in Surrey, third daughter of a highly decorated army officer, Billy was sent to boarding school and loved it. She made life-long friends and started a major letter-writing habit. She was presented at court as a debutante, took a gap year at the Sorbonne and then joined the Central School of Speech and Drama (which was then based at the Royal Albert Hall) where a fellow alumni was Wendy Craig. However, her initial ambition to become a theatre actress was superseded by her marriage to Christopher Everett in 1955.

As usual in those times, she devoted herself to the roles of wife and subsequently mother to 4 children, Victoria, Charles, Nick and Alex. With Christopher entering the Diplomatic Service after completing his national service, they moved frequently, including postings in Beirut and Washington and Victoria praised Billy for her ability to turn a new house into a home in only a few days.

Billy and Christopher returned to Putney, South London in 1967 and Billy started teaching English at Mayfield Comprehensive School in Putney, one of the first and largest comprehensives in the country with two thousand girls on roll. She had studied teaching while at Central School but this was intended only as a backup if her acting career failed. However, her commitment to education is shown by the fact that her preferred age group was the notoriously difficult 14-15 year olds.

When Christopher left the Diplomatic Service, Billy added the role of Headteacher's wife to her teaching responsibilities as they moved first to Worksop College (midway between Sheffield and Lincoln) in 1970 and then on to Tonbridge School in 1975.

It was while living in Kent that Billy became much more involved with the Guiding movement. She became a regional commissioner and then helped run the Trefoil Guild, the section for adult guiders. Her service to guiding could be recognised by the attendance of many guiders at the service.

Billy and Christopher also found St Paul's and Billy turned her organisational skills to the life of the parish. She helped organize theatre trips for the Men's and Women's Fellowships and started writing and collecting copious numbers of articles for the parish magazine.

Ginette di Palma wrote: Billy has been such a great support to me over many years. She has always offered calm words of encouragement and readily showed her appreciation to me in my various roles, as chorister, magazine editor and latterly as Parish Administrator. Her advice was always wise and well worth taking on board, this along with her sense of humour and warm smile made her a dear friend who will be sorely missed. It is often the little things in life that make it all seem worth while and this tiny water colour, as a note of thanks given in 2009, which Billy described as a 'Summer doodle', is one of those things. Thank you Billy, for all you have done for so many of us, we will miss you. Rest in Peace.



Sue and I can testify to the wealth of articles provided by Billy. Come magazine deadline date there would be three emails from Billy, one with the Prayer Diary attached, another with anything up to 6 articles of a more serious nature, poems or book excerpts, or perhaps a 'Conversation with William' a fictional exchange written by Billy herself, and then a final email with humorous articles attached, cartoons, jokes, 'Letters to the Times' and the like. She would also include some thoughts which were not for publication but just to amuse and encourage Sue and I – which they did. One such musing was mentioned during the Service – Wouldn't communion have been a messy affair if Jesus had decided to eat mango at the last supper! We have tried in vain to find a new source of this type of material, but it seems that Billy is irreplaceable.

Billy's items included many mentions and even a photo for the front cover of their annual holiday at West Wittering in Sussex. It was a place of privacy, a real bolt-hole, which they loved and shared with their growing family. It was from there that they attended the Chichester Festival, with Billy collecting programmes for inclusion in her many scrapbooks, at least 2 a year from 1974 until quite recently. She puts me to shame, my programme collection is just slung in a box.

Deborah Bruce



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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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## Easy Payment Terms

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

## They think it's all over – it is now

In my second sermon which I have called 'They think it's all over - it is now' we reach the end of the Christmas season but look forward to Christ shining as a guiding light to overcome the pain of the world. My prayer for all is that 2023 should be happy, peaceful and healthy just as the light of Christ meant it to be.

We are finally at the end of the Christmas season celebrating Candlemas to mark the event and the presentation of Christ in the Temple. For most, Christmas was finished by 6th January (the traditional twelve days of Christmas) and decorations and lights are taken down and placed once more in the loft, or in a safe place, in the hope and expectation that they will be dusted off later in the year. For retail shops and indeed, online, Christmas seems to end with New Year sales beginning on Boxing Day and in some households the Christmas Trees are discarded and therefore the light of Christmas cast out upon the pavement before the true feast has begun. Personally I dislike the taking down of the decorations and especially the light which gives so much meaning the birth of Christ. There is too much darkness in this broken world of ours.

In medieval times, the tradition was to keep Christmas decorations up until Candlemas and I am reliably informed that it is still done in some households today. In Church the only outward sign is the Crib and the Candles which will disappear once Christ has been presented in the Temple. For weeks in the depths of winter the Christmas lights would have shone amidst the wreaths of greenery brightening the bleak midwinter as portrayed by Christina Rossetti.

Forty days after we celebrated Jesus's birth, we celebrate his presentation at the temple and the encounter with two prophets. Candlemas - the feast of the presentation of Christ in the Temple - marks the conclusion of Epiphany and the Christmas season giving some true meaning to those words of the late Kenneth Wolstenholme – 'they think it's all over - it is now'.

However, the revelation of the Messiah to Simeon and Anna is a continuance of the epiphany of the Magi, an affirmation that Christ has come for all. Christmas may be over but not in respect of the coming of Christ.

What does it mean to present Jesus in our broken world today?

Simeon is fulfilled when he attends the Temple at the Spirit's urging, encountering the Lord he has been waiting for in the form of a baby. It is a moment of great joy for Simeon and Anna as they praise God for this Saviour of the World. In the words of Simeon, Jesus was to be 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for your glory to your people Israel'. A light for all. But praise is not all that is declared at the Temple. Simeon's words to Mary contain a warning - there will be opposition to the Messiah and a sword will pierce her soul.

"They think it is all over - it is now' certainly applies as we stand at a point where behind us is the joy and celebration of Christmas; ahead of us, the season of Lent culminating in the pain and suffering of Holy Week. The light comes into the world at a cost. It faces opposition, it will be cast out before coming back to us at the glorious resurrection.

We all know that when Jesus is presented in our world, he is not easily received. The baby Jesus of the nativity is more acceptable, although even he is forgotten by many before the Christmas season is over. We all need to follow in the footsteps of Simeon and Anna, praising God for the gift of Jesus and proclaiming his identity as the Saviour of the world. Let us all present Christ to those we meet as a light that shines in the darkness of our world; and as God made human - one who faced pain and difficulties just like us - and pray that, like him, we may overcome them to share in the gift of eternal life. Amen.

**Tim Cripps**



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## A Musical Note



The choir had a busy Christmas season with lots of carol singing and exciting services to sing at. After a two year break, it was lovely to be able to go carol singing again and this year we started off at Fenwicks back in November singing to the late night shoppers. We also sang carols around Rusthall village, at Chamberlain Court and at Chartwell Lodge. Sadly we were unable to sing at Rusthall Lodge as they had an outbreak of Covid when we were supposed to be there. We went back and sang at Fenwicks again in the week before Christmas which was good, although there were not that many people doing their shopping! This time they positioned us outside the shop where the acoustics were excellent, we sounded very good!!

The children and a few brave adults went ice skating before Christmas where we had a wonderful time. All abilities were on display from the expert to those barely able to stand up, but what was so good to see was the more able skaters helping those who felt less confident on the ice. We were due to go on a choir outing to the Tunbridge Wells Panto that same day but sadly the performance was cancelled as the theatre had no running water. It was such a shame not to be able to go all together and see the Panto as it would have been a lot of fun but we will try and book a similar outing for another time.

The highlight of the Christmas music for me was the service of Nine Lessons and Carols which was on Sunday 18th December. Sadly due to illness not all of the choir were able to sing, but we did have the majority of the choir there which was great. It was a tricky rehearsal period leading up to the service as we had to relocate to the Church Centre for two rehearsals due to the heating not working in the church. This is actually quite a major operation to take all of the folders, music etc. there, so huge thanks to Ginette and Deborah in particular who moved everything. As always for Nine Lessons and Carols we had a mixture of familiar and new music. We sang an excellent new piece by Ghislaine Reece-Trapp called Alleluia! A New Work is Come On Hand which was great fun to learn and we will definitely sing

this again. We also sang a beautiful piece by Sally Beamish called In the Stillness which I would encourage you to listen to if you want a moment of calm in your day; it is stunning. The choir sang brilliantly well at this service and with such great energy, it was a wonderful service. Thanks to Jess Biggerstaff our Head Chorister who started the service off brilliantly with Once in Royal David's City and to Lia Szappanyos for reading the "choir" reading (The First Lesson) so well. Huge thanks to Alasdair Friend who played the organ for the service brilliantly and just made the whole service so enjoyable with his amazing playing. Thank you also to Tom Hughes who sang the first verse of Once in Royal David's City for Midnight Mass with five minutes notice and sang it with such great confidence and with the most beautiful tone.

## Contranym

Most people are familiar with antonyms, pairs of words which have the opposite meaning to each other (good/bad, hot/cold) and synonyms which are words with the same, or nearly the same, meaning (bad/awful/terrible/horrible; hot/burning/fiery/boiling), but have you come across contranymy? These are a rare set of words which have two contradictory meanings, making them their own opposites.

**Apology:** a statement of contrition for an action, or a defence of one

**Bolt:** to secure or to flee

**Bound:** heading to a destination or restrained from movement

**Cleave:** to adhere or to separate

**Dust:** to add fine particles or to remove them

**Fast:** quick, or stuck or made stable

**Left:** remaining or departed

**Peer:** a person of the nobility or an equal

**Sanction:** to approve or to boycott

**Weather:** to withstand or to wear away

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to discuss your needs

## Animals in the Bible - Part 1

On the outskirts of Jerusalem there is a very special kind of zoo. Each cage or enclosure has a label giving the names of the occupants in English and Hebrew, together with a verse in the Bible where the animal is mentioned and it is known as the Biblical Zoo (although it's official title is The Tisch Family Zoological Gardens in Jerusalem).

Animals' names are often difficult to translate, especially if they are kinds not found in the country where the language is different so some of the names in our English Bible have proved to be wrong.

An example of this is the Palestine gazelle which would have been familiar to the original Bible writers, but when the Bible was first translated into English the translators had no word or knowledge of gazelles. They did their best and equated it to the well-known, in Britain, Roe Deer which is about the same size as a gazelle.

The Israelites and their neighbours knew domesticated animals best of all because even before they settled down to grow crops on farms they kept flocks and herds, and they depended on them for most of their living. They would also have been familiar with the dangerous wolves, lions and bears which would attack their flocks, especially in the hard winter weather.

The Bible mentions many kinds of wild animals both big and small including some creepy-crawlies – insects and their relations. Clothes moths, flies, scorpions, locusts and grasshoppers are all mentioned.

Until fairly recently, when geologists began to find out about the very early animals that existed, the only guide to the way in which life developed on earth was in the Book of Genesis. Genesis is not and was not intended to provide us with the sort of information we would expect to find in a modern science book. For starters the Hebrews had no word for day as we know it. To them each period of time could have covered hundreds or even thousands of years.

What we do know was that God evolved the different creatures over a long, long period of time and finally He created people. These early people were very different from the animals. As I said earlier, keeping livestock was developed before farming. They quickly realized that they needed to domesticate some animals. A domesticated animal is not the same as a tamed animal. They divided the animals into two classes – those that would produce food and those that would become working animals.

Over the years some animals have developed into having a sort of partnership with people, which allows them to be controlled to a certain extent.

Possibly this developed when young animals were brought back to the encampment where the hunters were living. Later on young would be born and gradually a 'tame' herd would be built up.

Very early on people discovered that strong animals could be trained to carry far heavier burdens than they could. Without these beasts of burden Abraham could never have made his long journey from Ur near the river Euphrates, via Haran far away in the north to Palestine. We read that Abraham had sheep, oxen, asses and camels, and there is no doubt that the donkey seems to have headed the list as a beast of burden. On the whole the donkey is well known for being a relatively patient animal and it is very probable that women and children would have ridden on him.



Wild asses have always lived around the deserts of North East Africa, known as Nubia, and these were the forefathers of donkeys all over the world – donkey being a new name for the ass, although ass was its name when our Bible was first translated.

In its wild state the ass was not used to living grass. So often it had to make do with rather dry leaves and twigs and even today donkeys can manage where horses would probably starve. Donkeys are also very sure footed so it is not surprisingly that they were a popular means on transport in the hot, dry and hilly country of Palestine.

Although the ass was a working animal of the countryside, it was also used by important people even on ceremonial occasions, despite the fact that at time, young asses can be very frisky. It was certainly nothing to be ashamed of to be seen riding on a donkey, and it seemed to be the right thing to do even for kings. But this was only in peace-time. If there was a battle to be fought the king would come on horseback or riding in his chariot.

Perhaps it is a pity that the Jews did not remember this important fact when so many years later Jesus rode into Jerusalem on an ass denoting that he came to bring peace to the world.

**Daphne Pilcher**



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## Down the Garden Path

Happy New Year!

At Christmas I did not receive my hoped for bags of Farmyard Manure! However, I was given something I have had on my wish list for the past few months – Rain Stones. Maybe lots of gardeners have them but I only recently discovered them in one Garden Centre. I now have two!

Rain Stones, I was told, are designed from rocks which occur naturally in India – I am a bit sceptical about this – but I like them whatever their history is! Very heavy, smoothly polished, basically a light sandy colour with curves of grey, they seem to brighten and deepen in colour when wet. I have placed them where I can admire them from the house without getting wet myself!



I have also planted up my one big 'posh' pot! A conically clipped mini *Taxus baccata fastigiata*. Or if you only have small labels, Yew! Keeping it company are three red/yellow *Heuchera*. I hope this will be attractive enough to take my attention off the nearby 'wheelie bin'.



My 'ever-blooming' *Abutilon 'Kentish belle'* didn't fail to produce about twenty yellow bells on Christmas Day! A friend, who was with me when

I bought it, has reason to remember when this was – and checks it for flowers whenever she comes for coffee and a 'natter' – so we are certain that for seven years it has never been without a bud or bloom. That's what I call good value for money!!



*Abutilon 'Kentish belle'*

I have very poor circulation so get cold very quickly and am not a cold-weather gardener. This is my excuse for not planting twenty five crocus bulbs in November! They are now 'chitting' in the bag and I hope they will forgive me and produce flowers in the spring – a friend is coming to plant them for me, between rocks at the back of the pond where I cannot reach. (I hope she doesn't fall in!)

(Not my friend! Image from [goodfreephotos.com](http://goodfreephotos.com))



I am under doctor's orders to 'Do what you like but not if it hurts!' so I am now a 'Not if' gardener: down the garden path I will go but not if it's raining, not if it's cold, not if it's muddy, not if it stings... sounds like a lot of TV time! (If you happen to see me digging please don't tell my doctor!)

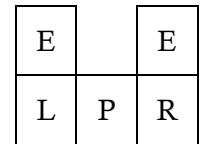
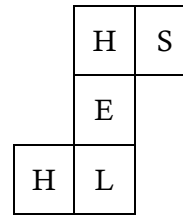
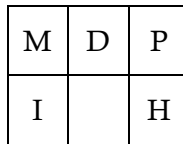
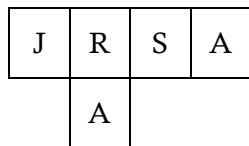
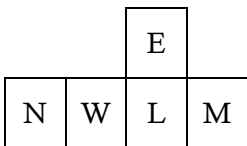
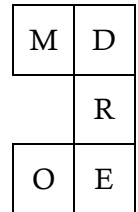
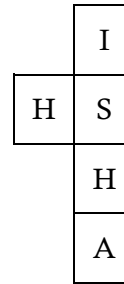
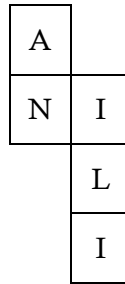
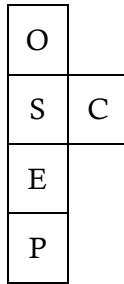
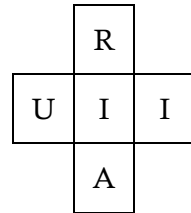
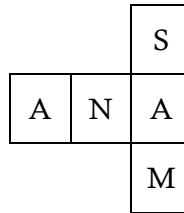
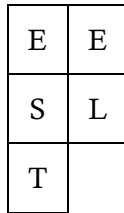
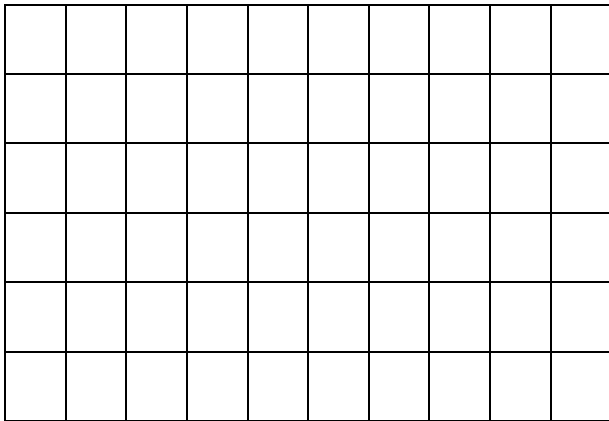
Back next month!!

**Elsie Emes**

## Activity Pages

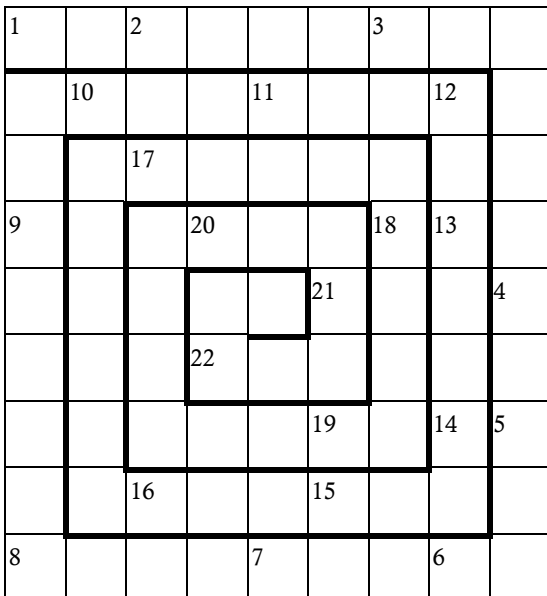
### Cross Jig - People in the Bible

To find their names, fit the five-letter shapes into the rectangle.



### Follow the Farmyard Trail

The last letter of each answer is the first one of the next.



1. Provides milk
2. Cereal grown for flour
3. Farm machine used for pulling heavy loads
4. Male sheep
5. Female horse
6. Produced by chickens
7. Find a flock of these
8. Farm machine which sounds as if it has star connections
9. Kentish crop for making beer
10. Building for storing silage
11. Needed to make porridge
12. Female pig
13. Obtained from sheep
14. Young sheep
15. Plant grown to produce sugar
16. A breed of dog and a town in Staffordshire
17. A farm implement and a boys public school
18. A breed of dog which sounds as if he comes from Wales
19. This type of beef cattle might come from a town on the river Wye
20. Found on the farm pond perhaps
21. A type of cattle grown as food for sheep and cattle
22. A female sheep

## Twenty Questions to Test You

- Which Christian festival is celebrated on the fortieth day after Easter
- Which King of Salem blessed Abraham
- Durham cathedral is the shrine of which saint
- What colour is used in church at Whitsun
- Where was an ass's head sold for fourscore pieces of silver
- What is another name for the Chancel arch
- Who became a pillar of salt
- What were the colours of the four horses of the Apocalypse
- What was Achilles' soft spot
- What is the instrument of the angels
- What veg is part of a whistle
- Who was Aladdin's magic helper
- Which apostle took the place of Judas Iscariot
- What was the name of German WWII code
- What is the capital city of Jordan
- Where was Moses when he received the Ten Commandments
- Name given to a castaway's boat of logs
- Which three Israelites were thrown into a fiery furnace
- What is Basra's country
- A river bank mammal

**Try your hand at this Wordsearch comprising names of places in Great Britain.** At the end you will be left with five unused letters which give you the name of a well-known port. The words may be written forwards, backwards, vertically, horizontally or diagonally.

L	L	U	H	G	R	U	B	N	I	D	E	ASCOT	ASHFORD
W	E	A	S	H	F	O	R	D	D	N	L	AYR	BALA
A	D	M	O	M	L	A	E	D	R	R	D	BOLTON	CARTMEL
C	E	L	T	T	E	S	Y	U	V	Y	D	CATERHAM	CREWE
H	M	H	O	R	E	L	O	N	M	A	U	CROMER	DEAL
T	A	N	A	L	A	B	R	C	A	P	P	DISS	DYMCHURCH
R	H	S	B	S	T	C	H	O	T	B	L	EASTBOURNE	EDINBURGH
O	R	Y	C	S	T	U	R	O	S	O	O	EYE	HASTINGS
P	E	O	A	O	R	I	N	O	N	E	T	HULL	LONDON
E	T	E	N	C	N	E	N	D	M	E	E	LYDD	MELROSE
E	A	G	H	E	Y	E	O	G	R	E	Y	OBAN	PEEL
L	C	R	E	W	E	N	D	I	S	S	R	PORTHCAWL	RYE
												SCONE	SELBY
												SETTLE	TOLPUDDLE
												TONG	UPTON
												WYE	

## Riddle-me-Rees

Name the Country

- My first is in both push and pull  
 My second's in fell but not in full  
 My third is in both rope and string  
 My last is in buy but not in bring
- My first is in his but not in her  
 My second is found in hair and fur  
 My third is in both apple and pear  
 My last is in stallion but not in mare
- My first is in both bit and bite  
 My second is found in kit and kite  
 My third is in both tea and toast  
 My fourth is in boil but no in roast  
 My last is in you but not in me  
 My whole has some beaches with lovely blue sea.
- My first is in both sea and ship  
 My second is found in whack and whip  
 My third is in both egg and hen  
 My fourth is found in dog and den  
 My fifth is in both he and her  
 My last is found in man not sir

## DAYS OF THE WEEK (continued)

### WEDNESDAY – Woden’s Day

This day was named after Woden, the chief god of the Angles and Saxons.

Woden was called the ‘All-Father’ because he was supposed to have created the world and everything in it. Woden means wanderer and he was thought to wander to and fro over the earth, watching and guarding his people. His cloak was blue like the sky; he carried a spear in his hand, and on his head he wore a hat which hid his face from view – this was because he wanted no one to notice that he had only one eye. Woden had exchanged his other eye, at the beginning of time, for the gift of wisdom.

When he was not wandering over the earth, Woden sat on his throne in his palace above the clouds. On his shoulders perched two ravens which he sent out every morning to collect news of all that was happening in the world.

Woden’s palace was called Valhalla. It was a wonderful palace with golden walls and huge banqueting halls where the gods feasted. The Angles and Saxons believed that all those who died bravely in battle came to live in this wonderful palace for ever. On Woden’s day, his image was worshipped in the temples and people prayed to him to make them good and wise and brave.

### THURSDAY – Thor’s Day

Thor was the god of thunder. The Angles and Saxons believed that Thor rode through the sky in a chariot of brass, drawn by two goats whose names were Tooth-cracker and Tooth-gnasher. They thought that the thunder they heard from time to time was the dreadful noise that the chariot made as it rumbled along.

Thor was the most feared of all the gods, because he was said to have a terrible hammer, known as Mjolnir, the Crusher. When he was angry he hurled this hammer from the sky, but as it was a magic one, it always returned to his hand. This hammer was supposed to have been made by a dwarf who wanted to prove how clever he was. This was how the Angles and Saxons explained a thunder-bolt.

Surprisingly Thor was also god of the poor people. They thought that he watched over them very specially, and had his hammer always ready to use against anyone who tried to treat them unjustly.

## ANSWERS

### *To the Farmyard Trail*

1. Cow
2. Wheat
3. Tractor
4. Ram
5. Mare
6. Eggs
7. Sheep
8. Plough
9. Hops
10. Silo
11. Oats
12. Sow
13. Wool
14. Lamb
15. Beet
16. Tamworth
17. Harrow
18. Welsh
19. Hereford
20. Duck
21. Kale
22. Ewe

### *People in the Bible*

J	R	S	A	S	M	D	P	E	E
O	A	A	N	A	I	A	H	S	L
S	C	M	D	M	R	N	I	T	I
E	H	S	R	U	I	I	L	H	S
P	E	O	E	E	A	E	I	E	H
H	L	N	W	L	M	L	P	R	A

### *Twenty Questions to Test You*

1. Ascension
2. Melchizedek
3. St Cuthbert
4. Red
5. Samaria
6. Rood Screen
7. Lot’s Wife
8. Blue, Red, White, Pale
9. His Heel
10. Harp
11. Pea
12. Genie
13. Matthias
14. Enigma
15. Amman
16. Mount Sinai
17. Raft
18. Shadrack, Meshak, Abed-nego
19. Iraq
20. Otter

### *Word Search*

The unused letters spell DOVER

### *Riddle-me-Rees*

1. Peru
2. Iran
3. Italy
4. Sweden





## Rusthall Community Cinema



### Where the Crawdads Sing (2022) Cert 15

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
 Director: Olivia Newman  
 Genre: Drama, Mystery, Thriller  
 Runtime: 125 mins  
 Starring: Daisy Edgar-Jones, Taylor John Smith, Harris Dickinson



### What We Did on our Holiday (2014) Cert 12

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
 Director: Andy Hamilton, Guy Jenkin  
 Genre: Drama, Comedy  
 Runtime: 95 mins  
 Starring: David Tennant, Billy Connolly, Rosamund Pike



### NT Live: Othello Cert 12A

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
 Director: Clint Dyer  
 Genre: Live Drama  
 Runtime: 180 mins  
 Starring: Giles Terera, Rosy McEwen, Paul Hilton

## New Chef Needed



Part time chef with relevant experience required to cook lunch once a week on a Thursday for a community lunch club in Rusthall (40 people approx). This is a paid position working with a friendly team of volunteers.

Please apply for further details to Ros Rodwell (01892 618538 or [rosamund.rodwell@btoopenworld.com](mailto:rosamund.rodwell@btoopenworld.com))

## Words

Plays on words to make you smile.

- A bicycle can't stand alone because it is two-tired.
- What's the definition of a will? It's a dead giveaway
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.
- The man who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
- Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.
- When an actress saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.
- Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.
- Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done.
- Marathon runners with bad footwear suffer the agony of defeat.

## Poems for February

*from Susan Barber*

We humans tend to search for hope, for light in the dark. Well into winter, February can be seen by some as a particularly dark time, inducing low spirits. Here, determined to explore the gloom, the first two poets finally notice glimmers of hope. Then in the tenderness of the third poem we are shown that by treading softly through dark times, joy can be found.

### The Darkling Thrush

I leant upon a coppice gate  
When Frost was spectre-gray,  
And Winter's dregs made desolate  
The weakening eye of day.  
The tangled bine-stems scored the sky  
Like strings of broken lyres,  
And all mankind that haunted night  
Had sought their household fires.

The land's sharp features seemed to be  
The Century's corpse outleant,  
His crypt the cloudy canopy,  
The wind his death-lament.  
The ancient pulse of germ and birth  
Was shrunken hard and dry,  
And every spirit upon earth  
Seemed fervourless as I.

At once a voice arose among  
The bleak twigs overhead  
In a full-hearted evensong  
Of joy illimited;  
An aged thrush, frail, gaunt, and small,  
In blast-beruffled plume,  
Had chosen thus to fling his soul  
Upon the growing gloom.

So little cause for carolings  
Of such ecstatic sound  
Was written on terrestrial things  
Afar or nigh around,  
That I could think there trembled through  
His happy good-night air  
Some blessed Hope, whereof he knew  
And I was unaware.

*Thomas Hardy*

### Last Hours

A gray day and quiet,  
With slow clouds of gray,  
And in dull air a cloud that falls, falls  
All day.

The naked and stiff branches  
Of oak, elm, thorn,  
In the cold light are like men aged and  
Forlorn.

Only a gray sky,  
Grass, trees, grass again,  
And all the air in a cloud that drips, drips,  
All day.

Lovely the lonely  
Bare trees and green grass –  
Lovelier now the last hours of slow winter  
Slowly pass.

*John Freeman*



### Snowdrop Time

Ah, hush! Tread softly through the time,  
For there will be a blackbird singing, or a thrush.  
Like coloured beads the elmbuds flush:  
All the trees dream of leaves and flowers and light.  
And see! The northern bank is much more white  
Than frosty grass, for now is snowdrop time.

*Mary Webb*

## General Information

## Organisations

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

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

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