

ST PAUL'S NEWS

June 2023



ONE POUND

SERVICES

Sunday 4th June

Trinity Sunday

- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre
+ Zoom
Lead: Daphne Pilcher
Link: Rosemary Romano
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)
Minister: The Vicar

Sunday 11th June

Barnabas the Apostle

First Sunday after Trinity

- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Baptism (CW)
President: The Vicar
Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton
- 10.00 am Family Service
at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Linde Horseman
Link: Liz Goddard
- 5.00 pm Pet Service at the Parish Church
Minister: The Vicar

Sunday 18th June

Second Sunday After Trinity

- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)
President: Rev. Nicholas Burton
Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service Songs of Praise
at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Jean Kerr
Link: Viv Littlechild
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

Sunday 25th June

Third Sunday After Trinity

- 10.00 am Joint Service with Holy Communion
at the Church Centre + Zoom
President: The Vicar
Link: Daphne Pilcher
- 6.30 pm Evensong (CW)
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

DIARY

Thursday 1st June

- 6.00 pm Youth Council meet in the Lodge

Wednesday 7th June

- 10.30 am Julian meeting at Chancellor House
8.00 pm Oriana Singers AGM top hall

Thursday 8th June

- 3.00 pm Parish Fellowship
at the Church Centre – Elaine Bruce

Saturday 10th June

RSCM exams at the Parish Church

- 6.30 pm Rusthall Community Cinema
The Banshees of Inisherin

Saturday 17th June

11 am-2 pm ST PAUL'S SUMMER FAYRE
Church Centre

Friday 23rd June

- 6.30 pm Rusthall Community Cinema
I am Nasrine

Saturday 24th June

- 6.30 pm Rusthall Community Cinema
Living

Sunday 25th June

- 6.30 pm Rusthall Community Cinema
NT Fleabag Live

Monday 26th June

- 8.00 pm PCC Meeting in the Lodge

Thursday 29th June

- 6.00 pm Youth Council meet 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

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

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 everyone who attended and took part in our service of Commemoration of the Coronation of King Charles III, especially Fiona and the choir for their amazing singing – and to Nic for recording it ‘for posterity’. The service is now on our YouTube Channel, should you wish to relive the moment and/or share it with others. A big thank you to everyone who attended the ‘Bring and Share’ lunch afterwards, and to Rod for spearheading it. It was a very pleasant way to spend the Sunday afternoon.

I attended the Bishop of Rochester’s Day Conference for beneficed and licensed clergy at the end of April. The day was divided into three main sessions, with each session focusing on one of the three words that form Bishop Jonathan’s strapline: ‘Change’, ‘Serve’, ‘Grow’. After inputs from Bishop Jonathan and others for each session we were encouraged to discuss in small groups around four questions and give feedback. Two of the questions for the session on change were ‘What needs to change the most in the next twenty years - bearing in mind priorities such as our churches becoming younger and more diverse, as well as their promoting racial and climate justice?’ and ‘What are the biggest obstacles to the kind of change we want to see, and how can we make sure that these much-needed changes really do happen?’ One question on ‘Serve’ was ‘What potential opportunities for service are there in your community and what is stopping you?’ One of the four questions that we were encouraged to discuss under ‘Grow’ was ‘How might you seek to promote, affirm and celebrate growth among children and young people? What are you doing already and/or how might you work with others to encourage this?’ Needless to say that we were not able to discuss all of the questions but it was good to listen to one another and interesting to hear varying and contrary views. I would be very pleased to hear your views and suggestions relating to the questions that I have shared.

This year we will be having our Pet Service at 5:00pm on the 11th of June on the grounds at the Parish Church. Please bring your pets to this amazing service. If it is rainy we will have the service in the Church building. We have avoided Fathers’ Day so that more people will be able to attend.

By the time you receive this magazine, ‘Thy Kingdom come’, the Archbishops’ prayer initiative which started in 2016 and encourages us to pray for God’s kingdom to come in our communities would have ended or be about to end, but I hope that we will all continue to pray for the features of God’s kingdom to be evident in our homes, Churches and communities, and that God’s will may be accomplished in and through us.

May the Crucified, Risen and Ascended Lord Jesus who spoke peace into the hearts of his first disciples give us his peace, fill us with the Holy Spirit and equip us to live our lives for the good and benefit of humanity and to his praise his glory. Amen.

Ronnie

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Editorial

Welcome to the June edition of St Paul's News. Flaming June? I certainly hope so! This spring seems to have been one filled with dreary and rainy days; picking my rhubarb requires wellies the garden is so boggy. At least watching the Giro d'Italia hasn't rubbed it in – the weather in Italy has been even worse than here! British riders were at one stage in 1st and 3rd positions, then sadly Tao Geoghegan Hart (yes, he is British) crashed and broke his hip, so now our hopes rest on Geraint Thomas.

June is, of course, the month in which we transition from winter sports like football and rugby, to the summer ones of tennis, cricket and athletics. The FA Cup Final is on 3rd June – a Manchester derby this year. The French Open Tennis Championship will be without Rafa Nadal for the first time in years, as he is resting in the hope that he will be fit enough for a final year of competition next year. Wimbledon preparation gets under way with tennis tournaments at Queen's and Eastbourne. England's Men and Women's teams will be contesting a series of Cricket Test Matches against Australia for what must surely be the smallest trophy in world sport!

Good news from the World Health Organisation is that Covid-19 is no longer considered a Global Health Emergency. However, this doesn't mean that it is not still a significant problem, for some time now the number of people that have Covid at any time has remained at about a million. However, globally the number of deaths has fallen to around 3,500 per week, down from a peak of more than 100,000. It is known that at least 7 million people have died as a direct result of Covid, but the WHO believes that the true number may be nearer 20 million. This compares well against the Spanish Flu epidemic which ravaged the world at the end of WWI and is thought to have led to at least 50 million deaths; a third of the world's population was infected by the 'flu at a time when there was no vaccination or antibiotics available.

During June the church celebrates the festivals of apostles St Barnabas, St Peter and St Paul (29th) St Alban (22nd) and St Ethelreda, Abbess of Ely (23rd) and the birth of John the Baptist (24th). The month starts or ends with the 3 Ember Days following Whitsun, depending on whether you are following the calendar as set out in Common Worship (28th, 30th, 1st July) or the Book of Common Prayer (31st May, 2nd, 3rd). I tried asking Ronnie why this was but I think the reasoning is about on a par with the reason why Kent now divides the school year into 6 terms instead of 3, each with a half term break! There are 4 sets of 3 Ember days (always Wednesday, Friday and Saturday) during each year, roughly defining the 4 seasons, the others are in mid-December, the second week of Lent, and Holy Cross Day (14th September). Ordinations often follow the ember days and those being ordained are encouraged to use the ember days as a time of prayer, fasting and preparation. In times gone by people abstained from eating meat and there are recipes for Ember Day Tarts, a type of hearty quiche, designed to provide a meat-free alternative. Ember days are still used as a time when we are called to pray for the clergy and all who are called to Holy orders. In Spain the weather on each set of Ember days is viewed as a predictor of the weather to come in the following three months, much as the weather on St Swithun's Day is supposed to predict rainfall in the following 40 days.

Hopefully the weather will be kind to us on Saturday 17th June for the Summer Fayre. Look for more details inside. The next magazine will cover both July and August so please think ahead and get any articles to us by 11th June please.

Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare

From The Registers

Baptisms – we welcome as newly Baptised members of the church

Oliver Frederick Reynolds

Marriage Blessing

We give thanks for the marriage and blessing of:

Tessa Mallia and Harry Wilson

At rest – the sympathy of the Parish is extended to the family and friends of:

Nicholas Ficchmüller

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Churchwardens' Notes



We are just beginning to find our feet and the keys are less of a mystery!!

We should like to mention just one event, which stands out for us.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all the different individuals and groups who helped make the Coronation Weekend such a success: those who decorated the church with bunting; Fiona and the choir, who were on top form; the inspired playing from the organist; the ladies who arrange the flowers; and finally Deborah Bruce who created a masterpiece cake to celebrate the occasion. We are so lucky to have such talented members of the parish. Thanks also to all those who participated in the bring and share meal and enjoyed it even more thanks to the servers of fizz after the service.

We should like to thank Clive and May for their ongoing advice and we would reiterate their aim, namely to serve the parishioners. In order to achieve this, we would ask you to contact us. We need to know what you think and this can be conveyed to us over coffee after the service, by a short note or comment given to Rod as you enter the church or by email. Any solutions to problems or positive suggestions will be gratefully received and as time passes volunteers may want to come forward. I'm sure that the gaps will emerge and we are pleased to add that there are already several new sidesmen. A lot of the volunteer work is not onerous and it leads to enjoyable time spent with other parishioners.

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we had drawn up an Action Plan. Further details will follow and we shall ensure that you are kept up to date with future developments.

To end on a positive note; we feel that the Coronation Weekend was such a success, because of the many different contributions parishioners made, and we look forward to similar varied events in the coming months.

Chris and Rod

Deanery Synod Report

A meeting of Tunbridge Wells Deanery Synod was held on Wednesday 26th April at St John's Church, Tunbridge Wells.

Andrew Smith, the Lay Chairman of Synod opened in prayer and welcomed members to St John's.

He announced that the Rev. Nick Cornell, Rector of Christ Church Southborough had been appointed the new Area Dean, following the departure of Douglas Wren who has moved to Cornwall.

Farewells and thanks were given to Synod members not intending to stand for re-election.

A short discussion in small groups on communication brought the business part of the meeting to a close, and members enjoyed refreshments, which included a variety of lovely puddings.

For the second part of the meeting, Synod heard a very interesting presentation on communicating your church in a changed landscape, given by Jennifer Ross, Communications Manager and Bishop's Media Advisor for Rochester Diocese.

The presentation included our buildings, our welcome and our outreach.

Jenny also went on to say communicating also covered the following:

- Our signage (and what people see)
- Our message (and what we want to get across)
- Our audience (who do we want to tell)
- Medium (How and where will we share it)
- Experience (What might be the outcome of this activity)
- Channels (emails, newsletter, website)
- One off campaigns (Press release, Social campaign)

The evening was very enjoyable and following the presentation Rev. Nick Cornell closed the Synod in prayer.

Tony Bourne
Deanery Synod Rep.



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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

St Paul's Parish Fellowship

We met on Thursday, 11 May for our AGM which was preceded by a shortened service of communion, taken by Ronnie. There was a good turnout for our annual business meeting. Zillah Witt, our chair, welcomed everyone warmly and expressed her appreciation to Rod Garcia-Fermer, one of our newly elected churchwardens, for attending.

For information and hopefully to encourage others in the Parish to consider joining the Fellowship, here is an abridged version of Zillah's report.

The Fellowship committee is made up of Zillah Witt, Chair, Tim Cripps, Vice-Chair, Pat Cripps, Treasurer, Vreni Gould, Secretary, and committee members Tony Bourne, Valerie Sainsbury, Barbara Gillinder and Chrissie Collins.

The Fellowship has a membership of 22. We are gradually building up our numbers after Covid, hopefully this will continue.

We were saddened by the deaths of Muriel Tanner who had been our secretary for many years, also Pam Munro, a long-time member, both valued members of our fellowship.

Our charity this year has been "All Abilities Path, Happy Valley".

John Barber, assisted by the new Ranger Dan Colborne, gave an interesting and informative talk on this local project. The Rev Dave Bubb, Curate at Christ Church, Southborough, gave this year's Lent talk and Peter Allan entertained us with "Mr Garrett's Fireside Theatre, History of Drury Lane".

The summer outing last year was to Hever Castle and this year will be to 'Great Comp Gardens'. We hope for a sunny warm day!

We have a team for coffee at the Parish Church, the first Sunday of the month and are grateful to those who volunteer on a regular basis.

The Fellowship ladies enjoyed making posies for this year's Mothering Sunday Service and they were much appreciated by everyone on the day.

I am grateful to everyone on the committee for their support, and we are pleased to have Vreni Gould as our new secretary, an excellent addition. Sadly,

Gillian Penny no longer feels able to stand for re-election and we wish her well.

We offer friendship and a warm welcome, so please join us, once a month, second Thursday of the month at 3pm in the Church at the Church Centre.

At the end of the business meeting, Zillah was given warm applause for her continued commitment and care as our chair and in celebration of her forthcoming birthday.

We finished the afternoon with a Coronation cream tea, beautifully prepared and served by some of the members of the Fellowship. A good time was had by all.

Future Dates

Thursday 8 June at 3pm

Elaine Bruce, BBC producer "Impartiality – can the media ever get it right?"

Thursday 13 July

Outing to Great Comp Garden, Great Comp Lane, St Mary's Platt, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 8QS
A hidden gem!

Visiting Wales



Three tourists were driving through Wales. As they were approaching Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysilioogoch.... they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town's name. They argued back and forth until they stopped for lunch.

As they stood at the counter one asked the employee, 'Before we order, could you please settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are ... Very slowly?'

The girl leaned over the counter and said 'Burrrrrr, Gerrrrr, Kiiiiing.'

ST PAUL'S

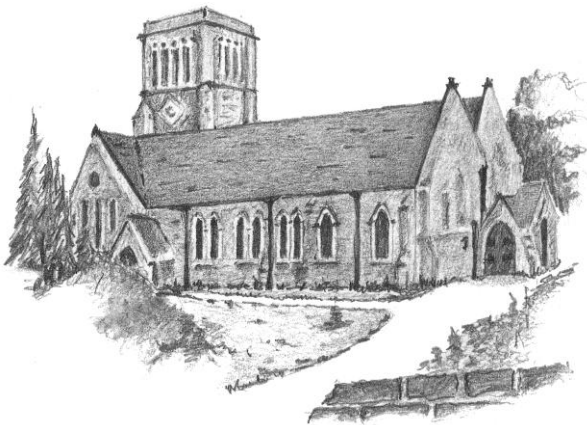
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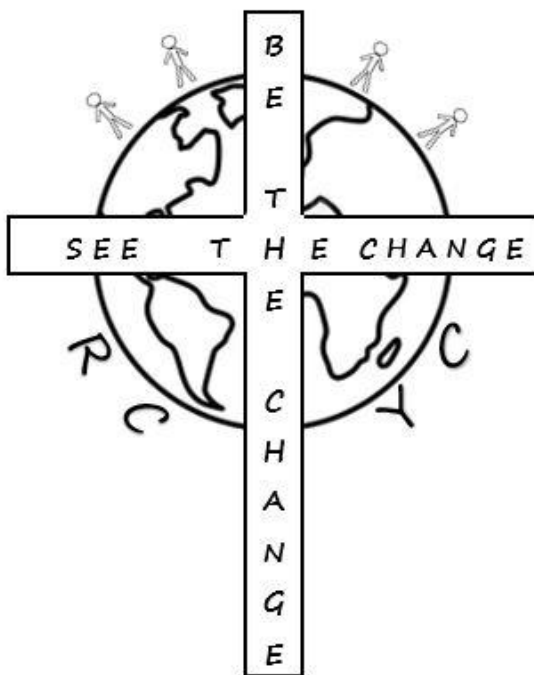
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ST PAUL'S CHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL



RUSTHALL CHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL

The Youth Council continues to grow and establish itself. It is wonderful to see new friendships and confidence grow and develop over pizza, chocolate cake and discussion.

A new logo has been designed and agreed giving the Council its own identity and purpose.

The Youth Council will be running the BBQ and the Jumble Sale at the upcoming Church Summer Fayre on June 17th and will be very grateful for any jumble or bric a brac.

We will also be serving bacon sandwiches, tea and coffee before the next joint service due to be held at the Church Centre on Sunday June 25th.

Our next meeting is Thursday June 1st at 6pm in The Lodge behind the Parish Church. Everyone aged between 11 and 17 is very welcome. We look forward to welcoming a member of the Sevenoaks and Tunbridge Wells beekeeping Society to talk about the joys and challenges of keeping bees with a possibility of having a couple of hives in our two churchyards. We may even be able to produce our own church honey!

Thursday June 29th sees us returning to the much needed road crossing with Parish Councillor Paul Gripper joining us.



Either just turn up on the 1st or 29th or if you would like more information e-mail stpauls.cyc@gmail.com. You will be sure of a warm welcome. It was agreed our future meetings will be held on the first Thursday of every month.

Angela Culley, Jean Kerr, Nicola Brookes

Summer Fayre

We look forward to welcoming everybody to St Paul's Summer Fayre on Saturday June 17th at The Church Centre. We would be very grateful for donations of good quality jumble, bric a brac raffle prizes and bottles for the bottle stall. There are collection boxes both at The Parish Church and the Church Centre.

Cakes on the day would also be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Angela Culley



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Heralding the way!

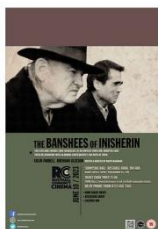
While many of us were out buying new bunting for King Charles' coronation Jill McAllister remembered that in her loft were two decorative shields, lovingly hand painted by her father, Stanley Hart, for the coronation of the late queen in 1953. Stanley owned Skinners, the decorators' merchants in Camden Road and, with other businesses, enthusiastically took part in a community effort to make the heraldic shields to hang on lamp posts.



70 years later they made a return to add to the decoration of the Parish Church. Jill says her father would be pleased to see his handiwork as part of the King's celebrations and intends to keep the shields safe to pass on to the next generation for any future royal occasions.



Rusthalls Community Cinema



The Banshees of Inisherin (2022) Cert 15

6.30pm Saturday 10th June
 Director: Martin McDonagh
 Genre: Comedy, Drama
 Runtime: 114 mins
 Starring: Colin Farrell,
 Brendan Gleeson,
 Kerry Condon



Living (2022) Cert 12

6.30pm Saturday 24th June 2023
 Director: Oliver Hermanus
 Genre: Drama
 Runtime: 102 mins
 Starring: Bill Nighy,
 Aimee Lou Wood,
 Alex Sharp



I am Nasrine (2012) Cert 15

6.30pm Friday 23rd June 2023
 Director: Tina Gharavi
 Genre: Drama
 Runtime: 85 mins
 Starring: Micsha Sadeghi,
 Shiraz Haq,
 Christian Coulson



Fleabag (NT Live) Cert 15

2pm Sunday 25th June 2023
 Director: Vicky Jones
 Genre: Filmed Live Theatre
 Runtime: 90 mins
 Starring: Phoebe Waller-Bridge

Corpus Christi

For June I am going to write about Corpus Christi or the most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This year it is celebrated on Thursday 8th June and the readings I have chosen are recorded at the end of this article.

There is an expression "You are what you eat". I am sure you have heard it and when I look at myself I think how true, but more on that later. I imagined that these words came from some sage psychiatrist or at least some profound philosopher. Imagine my surprise on looking it up to find that neither source could be credited and the expression, in fact, comes from an advertising slogan for a diet plan an American nutritionist came up with in the 1930's. Perhaps the very first example of catchy phraseology in the history of advertising.

Sadly, you and I know that there is truth in these words. Food has a huge impact on our existence. Certainly, the lack of food does: consider hunger - real, aching, gnawing hunger. How many of us have ever been truly hungry - the hunger we see in those awful scenes of homelessness, child poverty or famine in the developing world? What effect do a few grains of rice, or a slice of fruit have on our being in the midst of such hardship! As one who is permanently hungry, much to my long suffering wife's disgust, when we cannot eat, it truly affects our very existence. And what of the opposite - excess, indulgence and greed? When our diet is consumerist, wasteful, pre packaged and industrial it turns us into something: we become divorced from the natural world, the source of all our food. A plastic wrapped pork pie is both a symbol and a cause of our displacement from nature. We are what we eat.

The words of the Bible come thundering into our consumer driven world. My flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink he tells us in John 55. In fact the whole of John's gospel revolves around these bold and challenging words - so challenging that they create arguments in those listening, and so bold that they cause Jesus to lose followers by the end of the Chapter (John 6:66).

A lot of time and energy, not to mention theological discussion, has been wasted intending to find the answer to how? How can this be his body and how does bread change?

Like so often in the Bible the words of Jesus are not meant to be a challenge to our human understanding. Rather, they are a gift. Jesus is not trying to bamboozle us, nor does he want to

divide or dismiss us. He is simply trying to give us something. It is not so much how? but what? The people of Israel, hungry in the wilderness and yearning for the fleshpots of Egypt, did not ask how the 'manna' descended: in their ravenous hunger they accepted it as a gift.

Jesus wants all people to receive the gift of himself. This not just a noble idea or a kind thought. It is not just words because at the beginning of John we are told "The word became flesh". Jesus never just offers words. He offers flesh, flesh that is bruised and broken on the cross, flesh that was revived on the third day, flesh handed to the disciples the night before his death. And the same flesh is offered, through the prayer of the Church and the power of the Spirit, to his people this very day.

Which brings me back to 'you are what you eat'. The food we consume changes us. So when Jesus offers us food and drink it must do something to change us. the Lord himself says so in John 6. 54 'those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life.'

Our fragile, limited human life is transformed into something immortal, imperishable, eternal! This is the 'comm-union' that Paul speaks of - when we eat Christ, 'together in union' with body of Christ. Augustine of Hippo used to say to the newly initiated 'you are what you eat'.

So to borrow a phrase from Ronnie when we come to our next communion let us hear the word of Jesus. We refrain from questioning 'how' but receive the gift of his flesh, real food. We become what we eat - the Body of Christ. It is a massive responsibility: it is trusting obedience of the Father and selfless, sacrificial love for the world!

It means unquestioning love of neighbour, respect for creation, longing for justice. If Christ is in me, if I have become his body by eating his gift of himself, how can we leave any Church after Communion unchanged, how can we not be transformed? It is the best of all diets - we are what we eat!

Recommended reading:
Deuteronomy 8:2-3,14-16;
1 Corinthians 10: 16-17;
John 6 particularly vv51-58.

Tim Cripps

Poems for June

These three summer poems express the utter joy to be felt in nature, and perhaps such connectedness and transcendence embodies something sacred.

Susan Barber

Rumbling Bridge

One summer afternoon you go
Up the silvering of the river, low
Under the green cathedral of the leaves
Lemoned by sunlight, the slow wheel of gold
High in the huge sky.
Up there, above the flutes of the falls
You lower yourself into the delicious gasp of river
Rock downwards through stone gullies,
Fleeces of water, deep runnels, curls and eddies,
Smoothings the colour of whisky.
You stay water-tobogganing the whole day long until
the sun
Has bled to death behind the hills,
Till the wind whispers in the trees, shudders them,
And everything is only different shades of blue.
You trail home with sandshoes
And a slip of moon lifts over the pine trees
And the bats weave their own mime through June
air.
You come home and stand
And don't want to go inside,
Don't want to close your door on this day
Till the last of the light is lost.

Kenneth Steven





Seventh Day

Passive I lie, looking up through leaves,
An eye only, one of the eyes of earth
That open at a myriad points at the living surface.
Eyes that earth opens see and delight
Because of the leaves, because of the unfolding of the leaves.
The folding, veining, imbrication, fluttering, resting,
The green and deepening manifold of the leaves.

Eyes of the earth know only delight
Untroubled by anything that I am, and I am nothing:
All that nature is, receive and recognize,
Pleased with the sky, the falling water and the flowers
With bird and fish and the striations of stone.
Every natural form, living and moving
Delights these eyes that are no longer mine
That open upon earth and sky pure vision.
Nature sees, sees itself, is both seer and seen.

This is the divine repose, that watches
The ever-changing light and shadow, rock and sky and ocean.

Kathleen Raine



June Night

Oh Earth, you are too dear tonight,
How can I sleep while all around
Floats rainy fragrance and the far
Deep voice of the ocean that talks to the ground?
Oh Earth, you gave me all that I have,
I love you, I love you, - oh what have I
That I can give you in return –
Except my body after I die?

Sara Teasdale



Rusthull Scouts

These wonderful photographs by Langton photographer Michael Wheeler were recently posted online. Can you spot yourself and identify the year(s) they were taken?



A Musical Note



It has been a busy month so far for the choir. We started the month with a joint service to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles. We sang three anthems for this service; Zadok the Priest by Handel, The Call of Wisdom by Will Todd and I was glad by Parry. It is such fun to get to sing these brilliant anthems and if you were at the service then I hope you enjoyed the music. It was a big sing especially having not had a rehearsal or even a warm up before the service, but the choir was amazing and the sound was phenomenal. My thanks to Alasdair Friend for his wonderful playing for this service.

On the bank holiday Monday following the Coronation, some of the choir set to work clearing, cleaning, tidying and redecorating the choir vestry. This is a job that has needed doing for a long time with damp having come into the vestry (due to the lead having been misappropriated from the roof!) leaving stains on the walls and ceiling and general mess from us all squeezing in there altogether every week. We also discovered that we had a pet mouse who had eaten quite a lot of the sweets and sadly destroyed our Christmas hats! He was discovered living in a Santa hat and encouraged to take up residence outside instead. We don't believe he was the only mouse inhabitant in the vestry however, so keep your eyes peeled! Everyone worked really hard throughout the day (and Sue continued the painting on the Friday after as well) and now the vestry really does look greatly improved and very clean and tidy. Thank you to everyone who came and helped out.

This year we will not be having a traditional Summer Concert as we have had in previous years. Instead, rather than having an Evensong at the end of Choir Camp week, the children will put on a concert. This will be on Sunday 13th August at 6.30pm and it would be lovely to see lots of people in the audience to support them. It will be fun to do something a bit different and to challenge ourselves to put it all together during the week. We also won't be having a concert in October this year but instead will have a concert in January or February of next year.

Dates for your diary:

4th June: Choral Evensong
10th June: RSCM Exams at Rusthall
15th July: Evensong at Westminster Abbey
7th - 13th August: Choir Camp
13th August: Choir Summer Concert
3rd December: Advent Carol Service
17th December: Nine Lessons and Carols

2024

1st June: Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral
3rd & 4th August: Weekend of services at St Paul's Cathedral
7th & 8th September: Weekend of services at St Alban's Cathedral

Grandpa's Face

A little girl was sitting next to her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story.

From time to time she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. She touches her own cheek after touching his.

After a little while of thinking she asked, "Grandpa, did God make you?" He looked at her and said, "Yes, sweetheart, God made me a long time ago."

She paused for a few seconds and then asked, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" He replied, "Yes, indeed pumpkin, God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she whispered to him, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

The Chicken and Frog



A chicken walks into a library and up to the desk. "Buk", says the chicken. So the librarian gives him a book. The chicken leaves with the book and returns five minutes later. "Buk", he says. So the librarian gives him another book. This goes on about eight more times, until finally the librarian leaves the library and goes outside on a break at the rear of the library where there's a pond. The chicken is standing on the edge of the pond tossing the books to a frog on a lily pad. The chicken says "Buk, Buk" and the frog says "reddit, reddit".



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

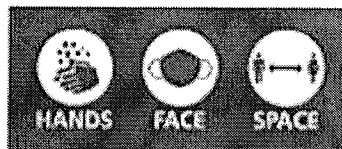
Who can use it?

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**

Animals of the Bible - Part 5

Sheep and goats are often mentioned side by side in the Bible. We know that they must have been kept in mixed flocks when Jesus was on earth – hence his comments about separating the sheep from the goats, and this is still the custom in some parts of the Middle East. The sheep and goats which we are used to seeing in Europe are easily recognised as to which is which, but this has not always been the case.

One obvious difference is their diet – sheep preferring grass, while goats prefer leaves and twigs of trees and shrubs. This does mean that goats can survive in more difficult terrain. It was one of the first animals to be domesticated. They are very good milkers – a lot better than sheep. On the other hand, goat's meat is not nearly so tender or tasty as mutton so you would need to be really hungry before you tried to tackle a joint from an old goat. However, kid's meat – when well prepared – can be as good as venison. Goat's meat seldom contains any fat.

Goatskins have always been found useful. After they had been tanned, they could be made into many different articles used in everyday life from sandals and harness to such weapons as slings – much used by shepherd boys when defending their flocks. Many skins were sewn up into the goatskin bottles used for carrying water, wine and other liquids. Goats sadly do a lot of damage to the countryside because by denuding and often killing trees they leave the soil bare and all that remains is bare rock.



In the Mosaic Law cattle, sheep and goats all ranked as 'clean' animals and were therefore suitable for food. The other really useful food animal would have been the pig – often referred to in the Bible as swine, but this was forbidden to the Israelites. Pigs were kept in the villages to eat all the dirty rubbish that was thrown out on to the garbage tip. They were certainly useful in clearing

up the mess, but there was always the chance that they would spread human diseases, which can be carried in dirty water or food, such as typhoid fever. It is interesting to note that although they did not understand medical science as such, our forebears were in fact much wiser than we often given them credit for.

I have heard dog-lovers say they are disappointed that dogs are not mentioned in the way we think of them today. They certainly didn't come into the pet category, apart from one possible exception. Both Matthew and Mark tell the story of a woman from the country who came to ask Jesus to cure her sick daughter. Not being a Jew, she was perhaps not surprised when Jesus tested her faith by saying that one does not take the children's food and feed it to the dogs. Her reply – yet dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their master's table. The Greek word the woman uses was not the usual word for dog and this is the only place it occurs in the Bible. It can almost be translated as 'lap dog'.

In some ways the dog comes into the same category as the pig – it is an unclean animal since it was a scavenger. Packs of semi wild dogs were allowed to live outside the cities and towns to clear up the rubbish that was just thrown over the wall. Even in New Testament times the word dog was used to describe unpleasant people.

However there is a second reason - dogs were regarded with disgust by the Israelites, and this was a religious reason. When Jacob's family moved down into Egypt they found several types of dog being kept for such reasons as hunting.

There were also many carvings and statues of animal gods and one of these was Anubis – the dog (Egyptian god of the dead). The Hebrews were later easily tempted to worship the false gods of the peoples living around them. To avoid this they were always taught to look on the dog with disgust.



Daphne Pilcher



STONE NESS



WALLED GARDEN

We offer social and therapeutic horticulture to members of the local community with learning difficulties and/or mental health issues



OPEN DAY

Saturday 15th July 2023

11.00am to 3.30pm

**Competitions ~ Tombola ~ Sale of Produce ~
Games Complementary BBQ**



Join us in the beautiful Walled Garden, meet our gardeners, enjoy the games or just sit and partake in Phil's legendary BBQ!

Sorry no dogs (except guide dogs) allowed in the Walled Garden. We regret the lie of the land makes it impossible for wheelchair users

Find us on the A264 between Ashurst & Langton Green-Post Code TN3 9SU

Tel: Jean Burgess 01892 740305 (before 8.00 pm please) for information

and

Visit our website: www.thestonenesswalledgarden.org

Down the Garden Path

Halfway through May – lovely warm, sunny days, long ‘may’ it last!

Recently I strayed from the garden to go for a walk on Broadwater ‘forest’. Now owned by the RSPB they are carefully returning it to its original heath land. This involves removing the trees left behind from when the area was planted with commercially valuable non-native trees. (The present-day ‘plant a tree’ advice is most helpful if the tree is ‘local’ and not just attractive!) I was pleased to see that the Heather was promising to flower profusely in a few weeks time.



Returning home, I was also pleased to see a neighbour’s Heather which was already white with blossom; this particular one, however, is a ‘Tree’ Heath, either *Erica arborea* or *E. Veitchii*. Whichever, it is quite spectacular and twice the height of my neighbour!



In my own garden, I am spending most of my time ‘potting-on’ the plants which are now almost ready to go out into open-ground. (Please no late frosts!) Most of them are from seeds of annuals which flowered last year. Every year, at this time, I promise myself that I won’t collect seed in the autumn, a promise I never keep!! Once again I am planting *Matthiola incana*, which has followed me around since I left my childhood home. (My dad always called it Jersey walking stick, although the internet informs me that nickname belongs to a cabbage: *Brassica oleracea*. Either way, my father most certainly did make a very good walking stick from it!) These ‘I remember’ plants are particularly precious!



Matthiola incana

Also part of the garden is my small pond – always adding more concern than pleasure! It is again supporting far too many Frog tadpoles which grow bigger but refuse to grow legs and hop-off! I go all the way to Mark Cross to buy Blood-worms which they devour greedily, but even this extra protein - which I am told they need in order to mature – doesn’t seem to provide whatever it is they need. They eventually disappear but ‘when, why or how’ I never know. Oh the problems of trying to do the right thing!!

Time to do some more ‘potting-on’. At least I have a chance of getting that right and I enjoy doing it!!

Elsie Emes

[PS Elsie’s son Paul was safely evacuated from Khartoum and has now been deployed to Nairobi]

Activity Pages

Word Search – All About Colours

The words are written forwards, backwards and diagonally. At the end you will be left with nine unused letters. You will need to sort them out to make a five and a four letter word of colours often associated with the Armed Forces.

B E N I R A M A R T L U
 Y R Y E L L O W H I T E
 T R O K T L N T M E V T
 E E O N I A O E N H S A
 J D S V Z C L I I S P N
 T L E S I E R S A T I O
 N O A R U A O R E H N S
 R G P Y M R B L A C K M
 U A A A R J O G I D N I
 B L U E Z I A A M B E R
 U Q L A V E N D E R K C
 A T N E G A M P E A R L

AMBER	APRICOT	AQUAMARINE
ASH	AUBURN	BLACK
BLUE	BRASS	BRONZE
CRIMSON	GOLD	INDIGO
IVORY	JADE	JET
LAVENDER	LIME	MAGENTA
OLIVE	PEARL	PINK
RUSSET	SLATE	SORREL
TAN	TOPAZ	ULTRAMARINE
VIOLET	WHITE	YELLOW

Twenty Questions to Test You

- How many days did Jesus spend in the desert
- What was the supreme Council of the Jews called
- In which country is Warsaw
- Another name for the Mountain Ash tree
- What was the surname of Judas who betrayed Jesus
- London's river
- What was the Jewish name for anyone not a Jew
- Ballet dancer's skirt
- Maradona's first name
- A A Milne's bear
- Who was the first head of the Church of England
- Who dreamed of a ladder reaching up to heaven
- What harvest festival of the middle ages was celebrated on 1st August
- What is the London residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury
- What is the rocky mountain state of the USA
- Who was Big Ears' friend
- Which tribe did Boudicca belong to
- Who was G B Shaw's Miss Doolittle
- Where is a famous Passion Play produced every ten years
- What is another name for Whitsun

Animal Maze

Hidden in this maze are eleven animals found in Britain. You may only move one letter to the next, up or down, left or right, but never diagonally. You must pass through each letter once and only once on your way out of the maze.

E	H	H	O	E	W	R	M
L	E	E	G	R	D	O	O
O	D	G	S	H	O	F	U
V	T	T	START HERE		X	E	S
R	E	O	↓		H	A	R
R	E	L	B	A	D	S	E
R	Q	S	O	M	G	T	O
I	U	E	L	R	E	END T	A

Down by the Sea – A crossword with a difference. The last letter of an answer is the first letter of the next.

1. A creature who moves sideways
2. A floating object to warn shipping
3. A sailing ship
4. A ship to bring liners safely into port
5. A bird which can be nuisance

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

6. Launched when people or boats are in difficulty
7. Name given to the movement of the seas usually twice a day
8. The Common and the Grey are types of this mammal seen in Britain
9. Beachy Head has one
10. Name given to a flag when it is flown aboard a ship
11. Cliffs off the Isle of Wight
12. Small shellfish
13. A walkway out to sea
14. Often slippery and covered with seaweed
15. Creature so named because it has points or arms similar to something in the sky
16. A safe haven for boats
17. You might well see one of these on the seafront
18. If you go swimming you will need this
19. A type of sea snail which clings to the rocks
20. A boat used for commercial fishing
21. A rowing or sailing match
22. Another name for a seaside funfair
23. Slippery fish found in estuaries
24. Nice to lie on, on the beach
25. Or perhaps you would prefer to sit in this
26. You need oars for this activity
27. Small edible whelk
28. This tide can cause danger to the unwary

Out and About Crossword

Clues Across

1. Another name for a donkey
3. No village pond is complete without them
6. Fee paying road
9. Measurement of a field
11. Female sheep
13. Small horse or pony
14. Home of the village blacksmith
15. Swiss mountain
17. Type of tree
19. Canal or river gate
21. Country road
22. Small insect which bites in hot weather
23. Cereal often grown for fodder

Clues Down

1. Type of orchard
2. A means for humans to cross a wall or hedge
4. Pyramid of stones found on top of a mountain
5. Pigs might be found here
7. Old horse drawn vehicle
8. Form of medieval punishment still found on some village greens
10. Top part of stalks of corn

1		2		3		4		5
		6						
					7			
				8		9		10
11	12						13	
			14					
15		16					17	18
	19							
20								
				21				
22							23	

12. Form of water supply
16. Medieval enclosure for stray animals
17. British poisonous snake
18. There is a stone one on Salisbury Plain
20. Blocking a reservoir

Tree Riddle-me-Rees

- 1 My first is in all and also in ball
My second's in hill but not in hall
My third is in me but not in he
My last's not in saw but is in see
2. My first is in won't but also in will
My second's not in Jack but is in Jill
My third is in both valley and hill
My fourth is in both miller and mill
My fifth is in house and also in home
My last is in tower but not in dome
3. My first's not in needle but it is in pin
My second is in both noise and din
My third is in train but not in car
My last is in concrete but not in tar

How the Months got their Names – Part 3

OCTOBER

The name October means the 'eighth' since it was named when the calendar began in March. In October the Romans held a great feast in honour of Ceres, goddess of the Earth. It was believed that Ceres blessed the earth in Springtime, so that the fruit trees would blossom and the crops begin to grow and therefore all things would ripen in the Autumn ready for Harvest. The festival was one of thanksgiving.

The name Ceres has given us the word cereals, meaning all the different kinds of corn.

NOVEMBER

November means 'ninth' and in this month the Romans held a great festival in honour of Jupiter who was the King of Heaven and ruled over both gods and men. Because Jupiter was such a powerful god the Romans lived in great fear of offending him. They were afraid that if they made him angry he might send a thunderbolt to destroy them all so they made him offerings all the year round, but in November they made special offerings. They gave him their most valuable animals, their best wine and their finest produce.

DECEMBER

Towards the end of this 'tenth' month the days began to grow longer and the Romans had a holiday to mark the lengthening days. It was a happy time because the people knew that winter was passing and they could start to look forward to Spring. They decorated their home with evergreens and lit candles. They feasted, sang songs and even gave one another presents.

ANSWERS

Word Search – All about Colours

The two words are Navy and Khaki

Twenty Questions to Test You

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 40 | 2 Sanhedrin |
| 3 Poland | 4 Rowan |
| 5 Iscariot | 6 The Thames |
| 7 Gentile | 8 Tutu |
| 9 Diego | 10 Pooh |
| 11 Henry VIII | 12 Jacob |
| 13 Lammas | 14 Lambeth Palace |
| 15 Utah | 16 Noddy |
| 17 Icen | 18 Eliza |
| 19 Oberammergau | 20 Pentecost |

Down by the Sea Crossword

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 1 Crab | 2 Buoy | 3 Yacht |
| 4 Tug | 5 Gull | 6 Lifeboat |
| 7 Tides | 8 Seal | 9 Lighthouse |
| 10 Ensign | 11 Needles | 12 Shrimp |
| 13 Pier | 14 Rocks | 15 Starfish |
| 16 Harbour | 17 Roundabout | |
| 18 Towel | 19 Limpet | 20 Trawler |
| 21 Regatta | 22 Amusement Arcade | |
| 23 Eels | 24 Sunbed | 25 Deckchair |
| 26 Row | 27 Winkle | 28 Ebb |

Animal Maze

- | | | | |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|
| Badger | Mole | Squirrel | Otter |
| Vole | Hedgehog | Shrew | Dormouse |
| Fox | Hare | Stoat | |

Out and about Crossword

Across

- | | | | |
|--------|---------|----------|----------|
| 1 Ass | 3 Ducks | 6 Toll | 9 Acre |
| 11 Ewe | 13 Nag | 14 Forge | 15 Alp |
| 17 Ash | 19 Lock | 21 Lane | 22 Midge |
| 23 Rye | | | |

Down

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| 1 Apple | 2 Style | 4 Cairn | 5 Sty |
| 7 Waggon | 8 Stocks | 10 Ears | 12 Well |
| 16 Pound | 17 Adder | 18 Henge | 20 Dam |

Tree Riddle-me-Rees

- | | | |
|--------|----------|--------|
| 1 Lime | 2 Willow | 3 Pine |
|--------|----------|--------|

General Information

Organisations

Vicar

Rev Ronnie Williams, 521357
The Vicarage, Bretland Road, Rusthall

Reader

Miss Daphne Pilcher 521691

Churchwardens

Mr Rod Garcia-Fermer
Mr Chris Reece

Please contact via email to

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Deputy Churchwardens

Mr Graeme Anderson 532922
Mrs Margaret Brown 680455
Mr Chris Dobson 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
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Enquiries to Parish Office 521447

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Mrs Pat Stevens 529187

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Mrs Vreni Gould (Secretary) 522185

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Gemma Bradley 07377 061398

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Ms Tina Francis (Mon) 545877

Rainbows

Mrs Mary Saunders 319872

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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

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.



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.