

ST PAUL'S NEWS

October 2023



ONE POUND

SERVICES

Sunday 1st October

The Seventeenth Sunday After Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Joint Harvest Festival at the Parish Church
Ministers: The Vicar & Daphne Pilcher,
Speaker: Mary Holmes
- 6.30 pm Festival Eucharist (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar

Sunday 8th October

The Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Eucharist with Baptism (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Wendy Anderson
Link: Rosemary Romano
- 6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)
Minister: Rev. Anthony Hammill

Monday 9th October

- 11.45 am Funeral of Rowena Stanyer at the Parish Church
with the Choir – the Vicar

Sunday 15th October

The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

St Luke

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Eucharist (CW)
President & Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton
Minister: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom
Lead: Liz Goddard, Link: Viv Littlechild
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

Sunday 22nd October

The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Matins (BCP)
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre
+ Zoom
Lead: Daphne Pilcher, Link: Liz Mankelow
- 6.30 pm Eucharist (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar

Sunday 29th October

The Sunday Last After Trinity

Bible Sunday

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)
President and Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Eucharist (CW)
President & Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton
- 10.00 am Family Service with Holy Communion
at the Church Centre + Zoom
President: The Vicar
Link: Susan Powley
- 6.30 pm Eucharist (CW)
President & Preacher: The Vicar

DIARY

Sunday 1st October

- 12 noon Bring & Share lunch in the Lodge

Tuesday 3rd October

- 7.45 am Worship Committee in the Lodge

Wednesday 4th October

- 10.30 am Julian Meetin – 30 Chancellor House

Thursday 5th October

- 6.00 pm Youth Council meet in the Lodge

Wednesday 11th October

- 3.00 pm Communion to Chamberlain Court
The Vicar

Thursday 12th October

- 10.30 am Communion to Rusthall Lodge
May Graves
- 11.30 am Communion to Mount Ephraim House
Rev. Tony Rutherford

Thursday 26th October

- 11.30 am Communion to Mount Ephraim House
May Graves

Monday 30th October

- 8.00 pm PCC Meeting in the Lodge

Wednesdays throughout the Month

- 12 noon - 2 Charlies Angel's pop-up lunch outside the
Church Centre

Thursdays throughout the month

- 12 for 12.30 Rusthall Lunch Club
at the Church Centre



Fridays throughout the month

- 12.30 pm Community Larder at the Church Centre

From the Vicarage

October 2023

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your continued prayers and hard work. Special thanks to Jane Goldsworthy, her team of volunteers and everyone who was involved in the Ride and Stride - for sponsoring the riders and striders, providing a welcoming presence at the churches and to those cycling or walking to raise money for Friends of Kent Churches. A very big thank you to the members and leaders of the Parish Youth Council for organising the 'breakfast' before our joint Education Sunday service in September – and to Chris Dobson and his team for coordinating our Harvest 'bring and share lunch' which takes place on the 1st of October after our joint Harvest Service. We are grateful to you all for injecting an increased sense of community within the parish.

Special thanks too to members of the Guiding Movement for organising this year's Harvest Service. I would also like to thank members of the Flower Team and all those who have invested time and effort into decorating the church and providing harvest goods that we could share with others in our local community. Rusthall St Paul's C E School will be having their Harvest Service at the Parish Church at 9:30 am on Monday the 2nd of October. You are all welcome.

I would also like to thank everyone involved in the Community Pay Back Scheme, especially the teams that help to keep the Parish Churchyard looking pristine. Following the completion of 'due process', the manager that leads the team that comes to St. Paul's have been given permission to work at our new Churchyard on Nellington road. They are already making a positive difference – and the following photos give a gist of this.



Entrance to the new Churchyard



The New Churchyard dedication monument



They are doing a fantastic job in making the grounds of both churchyards look well loved and cared for - for the pleasure and benefit of all who visit or use these Churchyards.

You would remember that we used to have joint confirmation services with All Saints Langton Green, King Charles the Martyr, and St Luke's. We will be having one next year and it will be in May and will be held at St Mark's. We should know the exact date and time of the service in December/January when the Bishop publishes his Episcopal diary. Once the date and time are confirmed, I will put a sign up sheet in the Parish Church and the Church Centre. We will have Confirmation Preparation sessions that those wishing to be confirmed / confirm their faith in Jesus Christ will need to attend. Please speak to me if you would like to be confirmed, or you know someone who would like to be confirmed.

I am currently 'dipping' into a resource book entitled *The Puzzle of Pastoral Care*. The thing that struck me again is the need for and the importance of a 'Pastoral Care Team', something that continues to elude me/us. Of course, that is not to say we don't have dedicated people who visit and care for parishioners, and committed volunteers who take 'Home Communion' to parishioners in their homes or in the residential care homes within the Parish. What we don't have is a specific and recognised group of people like, for example, 'the Marthas' who would be responsible for 'pastoral care stuff' within the parish. Are you interested in being part of such a team? It would be great to hear from you.

May our Loving Lord who knows everything and accepts everyone, equip us and enable us to always be loving and caring. Amen.

Ronnie



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

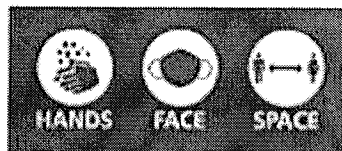
Who can use it?

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**

Editorial for October

Autumn is upon us! We might have had a few extra hot days at the end of September, but now there is a definite chill in the evening and it's time to get the warmer duvet on the bed! The autumn equinox has passed and means that the days are now shorter than the night and will continue to get ever shorter until the Winter Solstice on Friday 22nd December, when we get a measly 8 hours daylight out of 24 hours. In the early hours of Sunday 29th October we return to Greenwich Mean Time from British Summer Time. At least in the autumn we gain an extra hour's sleep! At church we celebrate the harvest on 1st October before seeing out the remainder of 'ordinary time' – all those Sundays that are numbered as 'after Trinity'. The Church is also organising this year's Homeless Week from 8-15th October as a time to remember and support all those without a place to call home. On 18th October the Church recognises the work of St Luke and Tim's Sermon looks at his life.

The whole of October is Black History Month and this year the theme is "Before Windrush" – an exploration of the lives of black Britons living in the UK before the arrival of the ship Windrush in 1948. This would include stories about Queen Victoria's Indian servant Abdul Karim and her goddaughter Sara Forbes Bonetta, princess of the Yoruba people in West Africa who was orphaned during a war with the nearby Kingdom of Dahomey (now Nigeria) and given as a gift to Capt. Frederick Forbes of the British Royal Navy. She came to the attention of Queen Victoria who took a great interest in her. When she developed a cough it was thought to be the result of the cold climate, so she was sent to the Annie Walsh Memorial School, a school founded by the Church Missionary Society in Freetown, Sierra Leone. She returned to the UK in 1855, and lived in Gillingham before marrying a naval captain and moving to Brighton.

October 21st is Trafalgar Day, commemorating the victory in 1805 of the British fleet led by Horatio Nelson over the combined French and Spanish fleets at Cape Trafalgar, on the Atlantic side of the Strait of Gibraltar. Although he died during the battle, Nelson's victory over the much larger Napoleonic forces proved a significant blow to Napoleon's plans. This day is also World Singing Day – so why not think about joining the choir?

The picture on the cover is of Sycamore Gap, a famous beacon on Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland. It featured in the 1991 film Robin Hood Prince of Thieves and is a much photographed national landmark, including pictures showing the tree under the aurora borealis. Sadly this 300 year old tree has been felled maliciously and even if a new tree is planted this famous image will not be seen again for many centuries.



If you appear on the General Information and Organisations page at the back of the magazine, please could you take a moment to check that your details are correct and let us know if they are out of date by emailing magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk. Many thanks.

The next Magazine Article Deadlines are 16th October for November's magazine and 13th November for December 2023/January 2024 magazine, so it's time to think ahead. 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 be available for sale in both churches on the Sunday before or on the 1st of the month.

Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare

From The Registers

Baptisms – we welcome as newly Baptised members of the church

Olivia Charlotte Grace Robinson
Alexander George William Robinson

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

Hannah Susan Mesney Lock
Rowena Stanyer



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Rusthall in your will.

Thank you

Tamarix Holiday Bungalow Winchelsea Beach



Tamarix is a 2 bedroom bungalow situated in a no-through road, and set in a large fenced shingle and grassed garden. It is ideal for those looking for a quiet and comfortable self-catering accommodation to enjoy a tranquil break along the stunning Sussex coast. Sleeping four, the cottage can be used for a wonderful family holiday or just a cosy break for two. Pets are welcome by arrangement and Tamarix is perfectly situated for walking, bird watching, cycling, and the beach.

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

**Weeks for 2024 (April to October) are available
from £650 per week**

Please call 01892 528538 or email
karen_miller_2@hotmail.co.uk
for more information.

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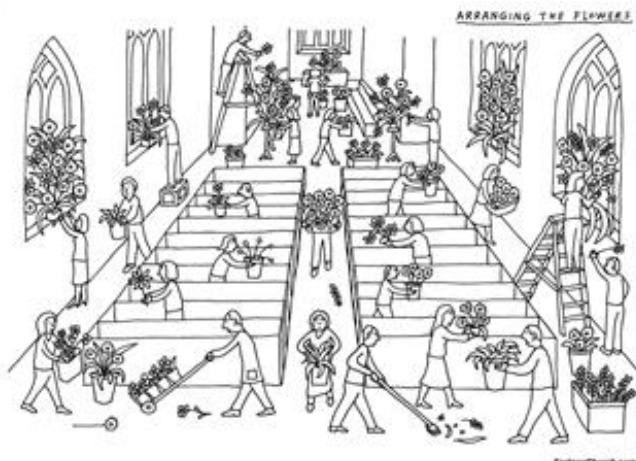
Income from magazine sales is important to us at St Paul's. If everyone paid the £1 cover charge we would raise over £1500 a year, which would not only cover the cost of producing the magazine but also contribute to other costs such as leasing the photocopier.

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

Your contributions are much appreciated.

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

Churchwarden's Notes



Thanks to the 'Dirty Dozen' who turned up on 16th September to deep clean the Church. We managed to get about half of the work done, including evicting many spiders and upsetting a family of mice. We will be arranging another day to complete the job, so we will be looking for more volunteers, including people with larger cars to help remove rubbish to the tip. We will let you know when a date is set.

We have been getting quotes in for the repair of the vestry roof, one is still pending. As soon as they are all in we will try to arrange for the work to be done as quickly as possible. We have been told that we need not replace the lead with lead, so hopefully this will stop the cycle of repeat thefts.

Chris has been on holiday for a fortnight so Rod has been holding the fort. He has also gained the job of creating a flower arrangement for Harvest Festival!

The Lodge lock became faulty and has been replaced. Those who hold keys will receive a replacement in due course.

We need to recruit some more sidesmen (male or female) for the church. The duties involve welcoming people and handing out leaflets and books for the services, collecting them back in at the end. They answer queries and show people how to get to the Lodge or find the toys. They also control the sound system. Full training will be given. If you are able to cover some of the services please speak to Chris or Rod.

Rod Garcia-Fermer

St Paul's Parish Fellowship

Three Women One Man – glamour, wealth and heartbreak – on 14 September Melanie Gibson-Barton BSc (Hons) gave us an excellent and intriguing talk. Those who were sadly unable to be present missed a treat!

In the spirit of the Mousetrap, before commencing her mystery talk 'Three Women One Man – glamour, wealth and heartbreak', speaker Melanie Gibson-Barton swore us all to keep secret the names of the intriguing participants - even from members not attending the meeting!

Melanie led us through a wide selection of slides from world-wide locations – many from her own postcard collection - to show how the lives of the four charismatic people of her talk intertwined in surprising ways, in their glamorous world of wealth which brought them both joy and heartbreak. The talk resulted in much discussion in the audience.

At the conclusion, though, we were again reminded to keep the identities of the three women and one man secret. After all, we had booked a mystery talk and would not want to spoil the surprise for others!

Future dates

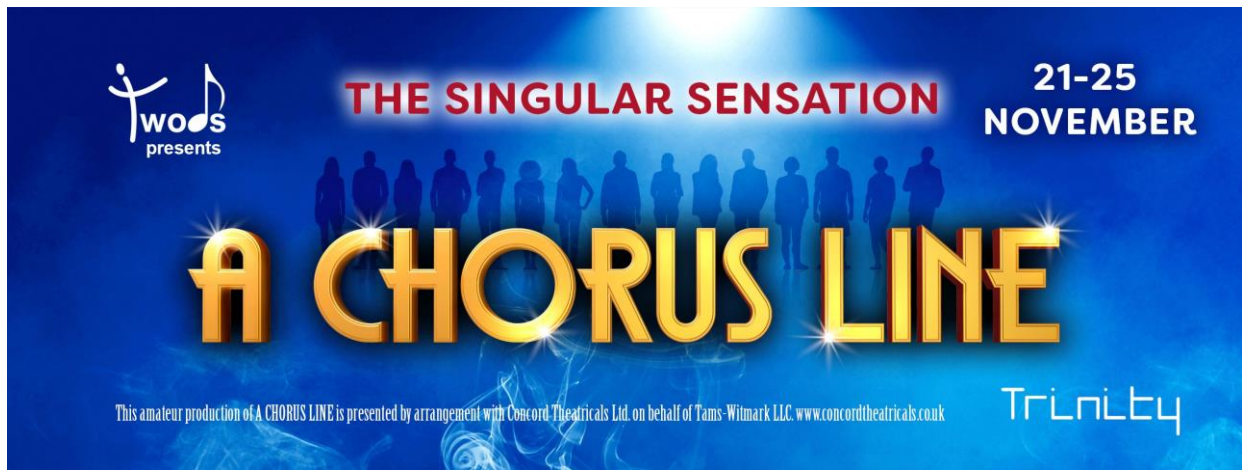
Thursday, 12 October Gilly Halcrow – Shopping through the Ages

Thursday, 9 November Dave Brooker – Film and Music

Vreni Gould



*Shopping in the 70s, scene of my first employment!
Do you remember Chiesmans? Ed*



NEW YORK CITY. 1975.

On an empty Broadway stage, a group of performers are put through their paces in the final, gruelling audition for a new Broadway musical. Only eight will make the cut. The audition takes an unexpected turn as the director, Zach, invites the performers to open up about their lives and what brought them into theatre.

What follows are searing stories of ambition, childhood, shattered hopes and what it means to follow your dreams onto the stage.

The emotional stakes are heightened when Zach's ex-lover Cassie, fresh from an attempt to make it in Hollywood, wants to audition for the chorus line.

Our next production is at

Trinity

21-25 November 2023

Tuesday to Saturday at 7.30
Matinees Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30

Tickets £24 (concessions £23) plus booking fee £3.25 from the
Box Office

or contact Paul and Shirley Barter (01892 530937)
to save £1 per ticket and NO booking fee

A Musical Note



It has been a relatively quiet month for the choir and, with lots of us having been away at the end of August and beginning of September, we are just now settling back into our normal routine of choir practice and services.

Two of our regular organists, Matthew Hoddinott and Miles Peacock are off to university this term, Matt is off to Bristol and Miles is going to Emmanuel College, Cambridge where he will be an organ scholar. We wish them both lots of luck for their first term and hope to see them (and hear them play) when they are back home for the holidays.

Congratulations to Tom Hughes and Marcy Winter who have been awarded their red ribbons. The red ribbon is rarely given out as you can only get it having sung in the junior choir for many years, turning up regularly to services and to all other choir activities. You also have to be a willing soloist and show outstanding leadership. Tom and Marcy are both absolutely brilliant musicians and we are incredibly fortunate to have them singing in the choir at Rusthall.

Tom has also been awarded the Celia Stone Award this term following his exceptional musicianship at choir camp this year. Tom was away for the first two days of choir camp when we did the majority of the music learning for the concert. He therefore had far less time than the other children to learn some very tricky music, but he was absolutely amazing and sight read the music perfectly and showed us just what an excellent musician he is.

We are keen to recruit some more children to join the choir, so if you have a child in school Year 2 or older who might like to come along and give it a go then please encourage them to do so. The children do not need to be able to sing, we will teach them and they don't need any previous singing experience. What they do need is lots of enthusiasm and it does help if they can read. Junior choir practice is on a Friday from 6.30pm - 8pm and then the children sing for the Sunday service at 10am. It is completely free to come along, in fact we pay the children termly and there are always

plenty of sweets to be consumed both during and after the rehearsal. It is really good fun, the children who are in the choir are lovely and it would be great to have a few more. You only have to listen to the children to know that it also provides them with excellent musical training as well as opportunities to perform.

We are also keen to have more adult singers join us, so if you would like to come along and have a sing you would be very welcome to do so. It probably does help to be able to read music at least a bit, as we do sing some more challenging repertoire from time to time, but if you would just like to come and have a go and see if it is for you then we rehearse on a Friday evening from 7.30pm - 9pm and sing for the services on a Sunday at 10am and 6.30pm.

Our apologies for cluttering the Cannon Mantle Chapel with our choir robes. The theft of lead from the roof of the choir vestry has meant that whenever it rains the vestry leaks, so rather than risk arriving for church on Sunday morning to find that our robes are sopping wet, we thought it was more sensible to store them on temporary rails at the back of the church. We will move everything back just as soon as the vestry is waterproof again.

Fiona Johnson

A festive Christmas poster for a wine tasting event at Blackham Village Hall. The poster features a green background with holly leaves, red berries, and a red Christmas ornament. The text is in a mix of fonts, including a large, stylized 'Christmas Wine Tasting' in red and green. The event is on Friday 17th November 2023 at 7.30pm. It is a local wine expert event with all wines sourced locally for family and friends. Tickets are £20 per person. For tickets, please call Penny on 01892 740574.

Blackham Village Hall

Christmas Wine Tasting

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2023
7.30PM

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AND FRIENDS.

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MISS

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October Sermon Dinner with St Luke

As one who follows most media outlets, with the exception of social media, I have noted that people who describe themselves as 'influencers' seem to love putting together fantasy dinner parties with a variety of guests, some not living and some still with us. I assume it is an unpaid post and struggling to understand their relevance I came to the conclusion that it is nothing new, as the Disciples must have been unpaid 'influencers' spreading the word long before these 21st century prophets.

As it happens the feast of Luke the Evangelist falls on Wednesday 18th October and I guess that we will celebrate this on the Sunday before or after. If I was organising such a dinner party I would love to have St Luke to dinner. I think Luke could share much with the other guests and there are so much I would like to ask him. He remains a bit of a mystery but the evidence to hand suggests that he was a remarkable man. So I invite you now to my four course dinner party with St. Luke.

The known Luke (Starters)

Saint Luke, or Luke the Evangelist, is widely regarded to be the writer of both his own Gospel and the book of Acts. As such he is the only Gospel author to write a sequel, and the biggest contributor to the New Testament, even beating Paul. Luke is clear that he was not an eye witness to the ministry of Jesus, but he carefully, meticulously, and with an historians eye, puts together witness testimonies to create an account of Jesus's life, followed by a sequel (in which he was involved) about the early church after Jesus ascended. Without his book of the Acts of the Apostles, it would be hard to imagine that tiny fragile movement within Judaism that grew into worldwide Christianity today. He was very much the 'influencer'. Now Luke was a travelling companion to Paul and a Doctor by profession. Presumably, his skills were much needed by Paul who endured physical violence during his missions. It has also been claimed that Luke was an artist who painted portraits of the apostles. Of course there is much we will never know and we have to rely on the Bible for what we do know. In the letter from Timothy, we hear of Luke's steadfast faithfulness and loyalty during Paul's second Roman imprisonment. The others had left him. The gospel from Luke offers a good example of the evangelist's attention to detail, itemising what the seventy did (or didn't) carry, the etiquette which they should treat those they visited,

even the reservation of judgement - God would be their judge.

Unknown Luke (Main Course)

Inviting Luke to dinner would give a tantalising opportunity to find out more about Luke other than the meticulous, orderly, doctor turned historian. Did he have a sense of humour? Was he quiet or loud, silly or serious? Is it true he painted Mary's portrait? Was she the eyewitness who inspired the first two chapters of Luke? What was Paul really like? Did he agree with his more extreme views? What was it like being his travelling companion? What did Paul say to him whilst he nursed him back to health? More than anything else, I'd want to know his personal story behind his path to faith (we all have one). What was it that kept him going in those difficult days of early Christianity? What could he share of his story to inspire our faith?

Reasoned Hope (Dessert)

Imaging his answers (for sadly this is fantasy after all), I can only think that hope must have been crucial to his faith. In those early days, the shadow of Christ's ministry, death and resurrection still loomed sharp from a recent past. You could talk to people who knew Jesus, almost within touching distance of the original and definitive hope. Luke was a man of reason. He was a doctor but we have this very orderly presentation of his writing. I don't think he was a man given to flights of fancy. If we define reasoned hope as hope based on coherent, logical thought, it must be Luke who personifies this. It must have been informed hope that got the apostles through their darkest days. We know that Luke was familiar with Isaiah. Did the words in Isaiah strengthen them and speak to them 'Be strong, do not fear, your God will come.'

Conclusion (Coffee and mints)

Despite the length of time between us, the early Church of Luke's time and the modern Church of today, we are perhaps not so dissimilar. We face the pressing need to adapt to our context in order to survive. I think he might say right let's get back to basics. Don't fear ripping up where we are. I guess it might be a long conversation. Judging from the Luke we know in Paul's letters I think he might be the last to leave. At a human level I wonder what he would have said if I introduced him to the dish washer?

I hope you have been 'influenced' by October's dinner and its given you an appetite to face change!

Recommended Readings

Isaiah 35. 3-6
2 Timothy 4. 5-17
Luke 10.1-9

Tim Crips

[Please note that you can access the recommended readings online by going to <https://bible.oremus.org>. Enter the passage details and select your preferred edition of the bible – New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised Edition) and King James Bible are both available. This website is free of charge. Ed]

Roving Bridges



©Ray Folwell, Geography Project

After discovering the beautiful wavy wall last month, this month I came across this lovely curvy bridge. This example is over the Maccelsfield Canal, but many other designs and examples exist.

Variously called a roving bridge, changeline bridge, turnover bridge, or snake bridge, it is a bridge over a canal constructed to allow a horse towing a boat to cross the canal when the towpath changes sides. This often involved unhitching the tow line, and would be time consuming, but on some canals they were constructed so that there was no need to do this. On the Macclesfield Canal this was achieved by building spiral ramps, their coils giving rise to the local name of snake bridges. The horse could walk up the slope and over the bridge, then down and round onto the towpath on the other side. Quite ingenious.

On the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal and others, roving bridges were constructed of iron in two cantilevered halves, leaving a slot in the middle for

the tow rope. This was also called a split bridge. For cost reasons many ordinary Stratford bridges were also built in this way as they had no towpath.



© Andrew Abbott, Shropshire Union Canal

Bridges were also necessary at canal junctions and where the towpath was interrupted by side arms. These are strictly speaking side bridges, but they are often referred to as roving bridges, for example this one on the Shropshire Union Canal. The ramps of the bridge are typically studded with alternating rows of protruding bricks to prevent the feet of the horse from sliding.

The Romans are known to have used mules to haul boats on rivers and their waterways in the UK in 1 AD. Boat horses were the prime movers of the Industrial Revolution, and they remained at work until the middle of the 20th century. A horse, towing a boat with a rope from the towpath, could pull fifty times as much cargo as it could pull in a cart or wagon on roads. In the early days of the Canal Age, from about 1740, all boats and barges were towed by a horse, a mule (the offspring of a male donkey - a Jack or Jackass - and female horse), a hinny (the offspring of a female donkey - also known as a jenny, a pony or sometimes a pair of donkeys).

Horse-drawn boats were used well into the 1960s on UK canals for commercial transport, and are still used today by a few passenger trip boats and other pleasure traffic.



Deborah Bruce

ST PAUL'S

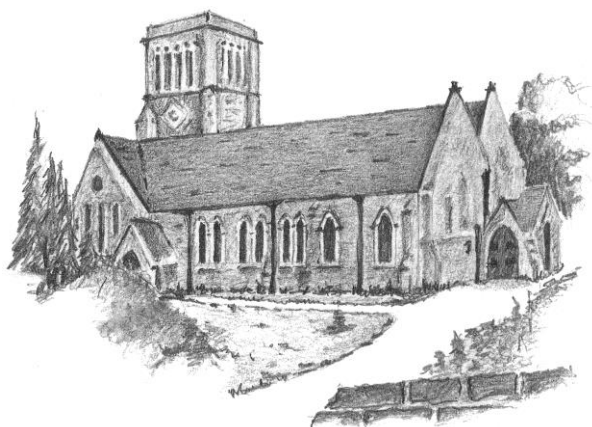
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St Paul's Church Autumn Fayre

November 18th 2023

10:00 – 2:00

The time is fast approaching for one of the major fundraising and social events of the year when the whole church family get together and use their skills to raise funds for our church. This year's event will be on **Saturday November 18th** between 10am and 2pm and will take place in both the Church Centre and the URC hall.

We will be providing refreshments in both venues and lunches at the Church centre, along with all the usual stalls. The URC will be the "Childrens Zone" and will feature "The Secret's Room where Children can buy and wrap a present for their parents or siblings, as well as lots of games to enjoy including the famous Scalextric.

Any one who likes making craft items is very welcome to donate them for sale on the craft stall run by Family Service.

Donations are needed for the stalls and boxes will be at the back of both churches from September for your contributions. Things needed include:-

Raffle prizes for the Grand Raffle

Books and DVDs

Chocolate for Tombola and sweets to fill jars

Bottles – alcoholic and non-alcoholic

Bathroom supplies – that gift you will never use perhaps

Stationary, colouring books etc

Gifts for the Secret Room

Bric-a-brac

Nearer the date donations of cakes and savouries will also be most welcome

Boxes will be available for donations at the back of both churches from mid-September. Please put the date in your diary, sort out your donations and bring them along and enjoy being part of *TEAM FAYRE*.

If you have any questions please contact Jean Kerr on jeak4000@gmail.com or 07905758799.

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A Journey towards Lay Ministry

There are times in life when it can seem as if an unseen hand is guiding you. Often, such times are accompanied by coincidences that just seem so impossible or ludicrous that you may struggle to accept them as just that. Sometimes, hurdles you thought insurmountable seemingly melt away leaving you wondering if they were all just a figment of your imagination. This is not some supernatural voodoo magic. For us, as Christians, this phenomenon has a well-known name - the Holy Spirit. The story of this journey, therefore, is really the story of the amazing blessing that is the Holy Spirit.

Over the next two or three years there will be quarterly articles charting the journey as my studies continue towards achieving a license in Lay Ministry. I am confident that by journey's end we will have experienced together the full range of human emotions. It is precisely why I feel it is so important that everyone in the community has the opportunity to share in this journey. In looking to serve my community it is a journey meant to be shared and be for the benefit of everyone.

For this first article I intend to keep my ambitions strictly limited and look to answer just three fairly basic but fundamental questions: why Lay Ministry? Why Rusthall? Why now? In good time honoured fashion, the answers will be in reverse order of difficulty.

Why Rusthall? Whilst I may be a relative newcomer to the Rusthall community, Rusthall certainly is not new to me. My formative years were spent 2 miles down the road in Speldhurst. It was only when I reached 18 and off to University that the bright lights of London beckoned. Work then kept me in London or New York for nearly 40 years. For me, this little corner of the garden of England has always represented my roots and it was inevitable that it would be to this area that I would eventually return.

Why now? There is rarely a single answer to questions like these and it nearly always involves, albeit in varying degrees, a mix of serendipity, opportunism and planning. It had always been my intention to move when I reached 60, just as it has always been my intention that my focus would shift to one of giving back. I just jumped the gun by three and a half years. Contrary to the famous quote by Samuel Johnson from nearly 250 years ago, it is not because I was tired of life.¹

Why Lay Ministry is a lot harder question to answer. The Bible has examples galore - Abraham, Noah and Daniel just to name a few - who express grave doubts when God comes calling. They express doubts about if they have the necessary skills and are up for the task that God has given them.

The confident exterior that everyone gets to see is only the result of spending a thirty year career in sales. Each and every one of my cohorts on the course would freely admit that the journey we have embarked upon is challenging, demanding and has us all asking tough questions of ourselves and each other. There is one statistic that best represents just how tough this course is. Of the 17 people who started the Bishop's Certificate in September 2022, just five of us have elected to carry on towards attaining a license in Lay Ministry.

Not that I would have it any other way. It is absolutely right for it to be intellectually challenging. It is also absolutely right that we are doing it for the right reasons. Each of the communities we represent and look to serve have the right to expect nothing less. Having earlier discarded a quote from Samuel Johnson, there is one from Albert Einstein that I personally believe to be bang on the money: "The day you stop learning is the day you start dying". I look forward to the next two to three years with a healthy mix of excitement and trepidation, sure in the knowledge that I will be undoubtedly changed as a result.

Undertaking this journey has me questioning everything. In that spirit, let me close by saying that I would in turn encourage anyone who has questions to feel free to ask away. There is definitely no such thing as a stupid question. I just cannot promise that I will be able to provide you with all the answers.

Tim Harrold

There are thousands of lay ministers using their gifts in a wide variety of different roles, serving alongside ordained ministers.

Youth and children's ministers, churchwardens, Readers, and many chaplains, evangelists, missionaries, pioneers, are lay people, who are not ordained. CofE

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

Corinthians 12: 4-7

¹ "Why, Sir, you find no man, at all intellectual, who is willing to leave London. No, Sir, when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford." S Johnson

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Poems for October

In these two poems, the modern-day Scottish poet, Kenneth Steven, recalls his own sacred times of gathering in.

Susan Barber

In Late October

On days just like this
My mother would take me at last;

A back road with bad bends,
Potholes and blind summits.

Sometimes the sun came
Like the whole of July and August,

So bright the fields and trees
Were a fierce painting of colour,

Before a thunderhead of sudden cloud
Would glower the whole valley

So the hills went into hiding
As though guilty of doing wrong.

A wind cartwheeled and roared,
Rocking the car and the woods,

Crows went wild in the sky,
Chasing for the sake of chasing.

And then at last the tree,
A crown of orange-gold light.

I scrambled out and had to slide
Under the lowest wire of a fence,

Down into a dark world, where everything
Was earthy and late October,

That bed of red-brown leaves
Hushing beneath my feet.

And there, and there, and there
Lacquered by long sleep

Mahogany conkers waiting –
Polished perfectly smooth.

I rolled them into my bag,
Loved their woody, soft knocking –

Fled back to the car
As rain splintered the windscreen;

And then as now I don't know – was it them
Or the going out there to find them?

Mushrooms

The night before a great moon full of honey
Had flowed up behind the hills and poured across the fields.

The leaves were rusting, the wheat whispered
Dry and gold in the wind's hands.

Andrew and I went to Foss. We drove over the hills
That were blustery with huge gusts of sunlight.

We stopped and walked to the loch, left two trails
Through the grass, came on the mushrooms by accident,

A village of strewn white hats
The folds of their gills underneath as soft as skin.

We almost did not want to take them, as if
It would be theft – wronging the hills, the trees, the grass.

But in the end we did, we picked them with reverence:
And they broke like bread between our hands, we carried
them home,

Pieces of field, smelling of earth and autumn;
A thanksgiving, a blessing.



“Meeting the Bible Again for the First Time”

Pick up a copy of the Bible, any copy. Open it anywhere, and read a sentence. How does it “read”? Is it understandable? Does it make sense?

I suspect you may have a problem – for the Bible no longer communicates easily to millions of people. And it is now likely that those who have grown up with the Bible find it difficult to imagine what it’s like for those who haven’t.

So, let’s see if we can meet the Bible again for the first time.

First question, what is the Bible? I was brought up to think of the Bible as the ‘Holy Bible’ - it said so on the spine – ‘holy’ as in special, to be revered and respected: after all it is known as “God’s book”. Looking a bit more closely, we see it is not a single book, but a collection of books – like a library. There are different books telling different stories, some - but not all - are historical or based on a cultural memory. Some books are collections of poems and sayings, some are the voices of prophecy, (though not fortune telling). Mostly, Biblical prophecy is described as “God’s will, and if you don’t follow it, such and such will happen”. Some books have a teaching purpose, some are private letters and some are accounts of dreams, and so on.

But what is meant by saying the Bible is the word of God? My first answer is to suggest that, “The Bible contains the Word of God.” It is a book that was written by people who were inspired by someone or something that they called their God. This leads to a lot of other questions about who or what is meant by the word “God”, but before we face that one, we need to pause and check we are happy to ask questions!

If we were brought up to accept the Bible as a “given”, as a literally true document then we are unable to ask questions of authorship and purpose. But if we recognise that we have been created with brains, as well as a sense of responsibility, then we can take a leap of faith, and go ahead and make our own explorations of the Bible – preferably perhaps with others.

This leads us to discovering meanings. And we can learn to accept each other’s searches for meaning ‘in good faith,’ if we can trust in our love and respect for one another. We can discover not so much what is either right or wrong, but how to

follow a way of life and if and what differences our discoveries make to the way we live.

Back to the question. Why do people have different ways of reading the Bible today? Taking the Bible literally is actually a relatively new phenomenon – beginning in the late 19th century. Up to then, the Bible was mainly read in a church by priests who preached on the words of the Bible passages that they had just read as a “lesson”. The Bible was taken as read, so to the vast mass of church-goers, the Bible was literally true. And it worked - for them - then.

Most priests were educated people while the majority of their congregations were illiterate. They were employed by rich landowners. They held their “living” for a particular parish on behalf of the King (Rectors) or the Bishop (Vicars). It was part of their job to read the Bible in church and to teach the lessons contained in it: such as the Ten Commandments, which are a set of rules ascribed to the Hebrew hero Moses and reproduced in the Hebrew Bible: what Christians call the Old Testament. Their world was understood in a simple, top-down, accepting and literal way, so the Bible was interpreted similarly.

Slowly, over the last 100 years or so, our thought forms have changed, our understandings of the world have changed and we have learnt new ways to read the Bible. We can now see that the language of the Bible is at times pictorial, metaphoric, allegorical and symbolic. It is not simply a history book. Neither is it just a statement of belief and practice. We have brains, so we need to use them to read the Bible, and to try to understand it.

The “truth” of the Bible is not a literal truth but a truth of meaning. It is not true because it says it is, but by its ability to inspire people to find a positive purpose in their lives. For example, take the phrase, “Jesus is the Light of the world” (John chapter 8 verse 22). Obviously, Jesus is not literally a lamp, or a torch or a beacon but he can be seen as an inspiration to show us the way, to illumine hearts, to be a symbol of purpose in life and be a guide to enlighten life’s journey.

Another problem with biblical literalism, is that it lays itself open to misuse. We might find a passage that suggests it’s OK to take a life – see the stories of King David – but also we can read another part of the Bible which says the opposite, for example Jesus preaches the gospel of peace to the world. Also, the Bible contains two different stories of how the world began! There are other contradictions, so clearly, the intention of the Bible

is not to be a book of literal truth or even a history book.

By its very diversity, the Bible is teaching us to hold onto different ways of seeing things, to apply these to our own situations and so to make wise decisions for the benefit of our own society. John Dominic Crossan sums it up neatly, "(It's) not that those ancient people told literal stories and we are smart enough to take them symbolically, but that they told them symbolically and we are dumb enough to take them literally".

In ending his book, "Meeting the Bible Again for the First Time", Marcus Borg says this: "The Bible has a central role in shaping Christian identity and vision in community. As the foundation of the Christian tradition, the Bible is the source of our images and stories for speaking about the 'passion of God'. This interpretation shapes our vision of what it means to take the Bible seriously. The Bible is a symbol of the mystery of God and a means of understanding what we mean by the word God today."

From "Meeting Christianity Again - for the First Time" by Tony Rutherford.

Published by Red Balloon Publishing and available on Amazon.

How Children perceive their grandparents.

1. I was in the bathroom, putting on my makeup, under the watchful eyes of my young granddaughter, as I'd done many times before. After I applied my lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye....

2. My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 68. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

3. After putting her grandchildren to bed, a grandmother changed into old slacks and a droopy blouse and proceeded to wash her hair. As she heard the children getting more and more rambunctious, her patience grew thin. Finally, she threw a towel around her head and stormed into

their room, putting them back to bed with stern warnings. As she left the room, she heard the three-year-old say with a trembling voice, "Who was THAT?"

4. A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like. "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tyre; it hung from a tree in our front garden. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I wish I'd got to know you sooner!"

5. My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?"

"You're both old," he replied.

6. A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's computer. She told him she was writing a story.

"What's it about?" he asked.

"I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

7. I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point at something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I really think you should try to work out some of these colours yourself!"

8. When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure."

"Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised "Mine says I'm 4 to 6."

(WOW! I really like this one -- it says I'm only '38!)

9. A seven year old came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today."

The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said. "How do you make babies?"

"It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

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The Garden of Eden

In this somewhat materialistic age perhaps we tend to regard parts of the Old Testament as purely myths and The Garden of Eden probably comes very near the head of the list. It was not, of course a particular plot of ground in an exact geographical position, but it did exist. To those people who lived thousands of years ago it meant a very real place.

Today we have the habit of thinking ourselves far too knowledgeable to believe that Adam and Eve and the Serpent lived in an actual garden such as we know it today and therefore we consider it is not actual history. But we must be careful not to image ourselves all the more clever as individuals than the people of those far off days.



Few of us, for instance can rival that craftsman who fashioned a 'lion' in enamelled bricks for the wall of King Nebuchadnezzar some 2,500 years ago, nor anywhere near as equal to that goldsmith who, some 4500 years ago in Ur designed the lovely bull's head in gold and lapis lazuli which we can see today in the British Museum.

The sight of these things should remind us that the people of those days were not ignorant simpletons. They knew things, that we, by imagining ourselves very clever, might forget. They knew that the story as we read it in Genesis had some basis in reality and that a Garden of Eden had once existed. They even had an idea of where it might have been.

The ancient Hebrews had a word 'pardes' which came from a Persian word 'parridaesa', which today is the root of our own word 'paradise' which means an enclosure. Throughout the ages many have tried to solve the problem of where was Eden, but today scholars are almost certain that it was situated in a Babylonian plain. Here, linking the large rivers of the Tigris and the Euphrates, man dug canals to form a great network of waterways to irrigate the desert and convert it into a beautiful and fruitful 'garden'.

Where the parched and barren parts of Syria and Iraq are today, was once the most fertile land on

earth. It is still possible to trace across the harsh country the lines of the embankments and trenches which mark the course of those ancient canals which made Babylonia one of the richest places on earth.



The Genesis story tells us 'And a river went out of Eden to water the garden' and that water was the water of the Tigris and the Euphrates flowing through the canals. 'And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also stood in the midst of the garden'.



In 2020 Italian archaeologists discovered that some of the canals had beautifully carved linings.

One tree of life in this Babylonian paradise was the date palm, which flourished in the rich soil and gave the inhabitants so much that they needed – their wine and honey, salt and vinegar – their charcoal from the kernels of the fruit – their wood for light but strong building. They grew vegetables and fruit. The rivers were rich with fish. Large herds of sheep and goats provided food and clothing.

It was human greed and folly of power and ambition, together with neglect, which destroyed man's lovely and rich birthplace to a desert wilderness.

Daphne Pilcher



New ticket charging model

We are moving to a donations only model of sustaining our Cinema for Saturday evening films.

All regular Saturday evening tickets will be free, and we ask that a suggested donation of £5 is made for each seat reserved. If you can afford more, that would be appreciated. If you can't afford £5 then just give what you comfortably can.

We hope to receive enough to pay for the ongoing costs of licenses, media, hire fees etc. The Cinema will pay the card processing fee (25p on a £5 donation). If you can add Gift Aid please do.



Everything Everywhere All at Once (2022)

A middle-aged Chinese immigrant is swept up into an insane adventure in which she alone can save existence by exploring other universes and connecting with the lives she could have led.

Screened with English subtitles.

Doors open: 6:30pm **Saturday 14th October**

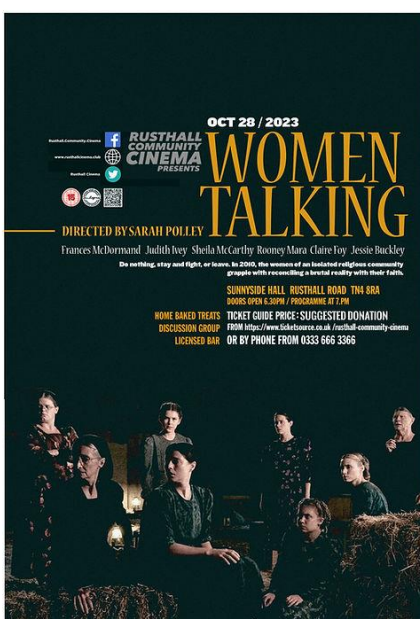
Director: Daniel Kwan, Daniel Scheinert

Genre: Action, Adventure, Comedy

Runtime: 139 mins

Starring: Michelle Yeoh, Stephanie Hsu, Jamie Lee Curtis

Certificate: 15



Women Talking (2022)

Do nothing, stay and fight, or leave. In 2010, the women of an isolated religious community grapple with reconciling a brutal reality with their faith.

Screened with English subtitles.

Doors open: 6:30pm **Saturday 28th October**

Director: Sarah Polley

Genre: Drama

Runtime: 104 mins

Starring: Rooney Mara, Claire Foy, Jessie Buckley

Certificate: 15

Activity Pages

Harvest Wordsearch

All the words have a harvest connection. They may be written forward, backward, horizontally, vertically or diagonally. When you have found all the words you should be left with 17 unused letters which will make up the name of flowers often found at a harvest festival.

<p>S E G A B B A C M P I C E A E P O T A T O E S H O N P A E R O T C A R T T U R P R T Y E L R A B A T L O L M U E A S W W M S T P C E S R A I N O O S D L G F S W N A N A T N S U G R O D I I S C A A T M E R M F O I P E E E A W R I N N A E S R H B O A L U S K E E L A W L M L S E P A R G H C F A O L T S E V R A H S</p>	<p>APPLES BEANS CARROTS FLOWERS HARVESTLOAF MARROW OATS PEA PLUM RAIN SCARECROW SUN TRACTOR WHEAT</p> <p>BARLEY CABBAGE EGG GRAPES LEEKS NUTS ONIONS PEARS POTATOES RYE SHEAFOFCORN TOMATOES TURNIP WINDMILL</p>
--	--

Weather is often a topic of conversation and it is also mentioned in the Bible on numerous occasions. Using a Good News version of the Bible, find the different kinds of weather.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Exodus 10 v 13 2. Proverbs 30 v 16 3. Isaiah 18 v 4 (two kinds) 4. Joshua 10 v 11 5. Exodus 16 v 14 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Jeremiah 18 v 14 7. Psalm 77 v 17 (two kinds) 8. Judges 5 v 21 9. Job 37 v 10 10. Psalm 107 v 29 |
|--|---|

Solve the clues and name the wild flowers

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A very proper pink colour 2. Female ox in a position on a cricket pitch 3. Rabbit like animal that rings 4. Bushy-tailed animal that must have a hand 5. Spread on your bread and something to drink from 6. Reddish-brown coloured horse 7. Used to sweep the floor | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Part of the eye 9. Last colour in the rainbow 10. Sew a sore spot on the hand 11. Economy 12. Shaggy Christmas Bird 13. Emblem of Scotland 14. Ever keep in mind 15. Wet big black bird of twelve inches |
|---|--|

Visit the Holy Land - A Crossword with a difference

The last letter of one answer is the first letter of the next answer. (Spellings are taken from the Good News version of the Bible)

1.								2.			3.	
			11.							12.		
						20.				21.	13.	
10.				25.				26.				
	19.		29.					30.				
								33.			14.	
			28.									
9.				32.						22.		4.
	18.	24.						31.				
						27.					15.	
										23.		
				17.						16.		
8.			7.					6.				5.

- Capital of Palestine
- Home of Ruth
- Old Testament town mentioned in Genesis – place of 7 wells
- Cave headquarters of David -1 Samuel
- Oasis of bitter water (Exodus)
- Where Abraham heard the call of God (Genesis)
- Where Moses died (Deuteronomy)
- New Testament mount linked to the Last Supper
- Mount where Moses received the Ten Commandments (Exodus)
- Land occupied by the twelve tribes
- Country famous for its Cedar Trees

Farm Animal Maze

Caught up in the maze are eighteen farm animals. You can get them out by starting with the letter P and ending with Y. You may only move from 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 the way out.

Not only do you need to think about the animals – think about the different names given to male and female animals and also what baby animals are called. Some of the animals may be plural.

- Where Jesus restored a widow's son to life (Luke)
- River of Egypt
- Where Saul consulted a witch (1 Samuel)
- Baasha started to fortify this town in order to cut off all traffic in and out of Judah (1 Kings)
- Where David was anointed King of Judah (2 Samuel)
- City Jonah went to save
- Spring where Gideon camped and chose the small force which defeated the Midianites (Judges)
- Home of Naaman (2 Kings)
- Queen from here visited Solomon
- Where the Ark came to rest after the flood (Genesis)
- Home of Amos
- Place of final great battle (Revelation)
- Town where Jesus grew up
- Jabin, a Canaanite King, ruled this city (Judges)
- City of Refuge in Joshua (the word IN not used)
- Where Joseph was sold to the Ishmaelites (Genesis)
- Where David found the priest Ahimelech (1 Samuel)
- Place of Jacob's dream (Genesis)
- Home of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel)
- Capital of the Roman Empire
- Where Jesus appeared to two disciples after His resurrection (Luke)
- Built by Omri as capital of the northern kingdom of Israel (1 Kings)

S	O	X	P	O	N	END	Y	E	F
N	E	C	E	S	E	R	S	O	
T	H	O	Y	G	E	O	L	A	
A	O	C	E	P	I	H	S	H	
S	G	K	K	START	G	F	E	E	
N	E	E	R	↑	T	L	P	C	
T	T	R	E	L	C	A	W	O	
I	K	C	G	O	L	U	L	A	
K	S	U	D	D	L	B	B	M	

Christ of the Andes

This story is about two countries existing side by side with only high mountains in between them. Now the people who lived in the two countries were always quarrelling about the land on the sides of the mountains – each country claiming it for its own. At last they said – we will go to war and fight for the land – and so battles began.

But there were two holy men, one in each country, who were very sad that there should be so much fighting. So each man travelled around his own country, going from village to village and town to town pleading with the people to stop their unnecessary fighting. It was an uphill struggle, but at last both sides agreed that their wars didn't solve the problem and they would make an effort to live peacefully side by side.

One of the holy men was rather uneasy that the peace would last. He felt that it wouldn't take much for it all to start up again. While he and his friend were around they would keep reminding the people, but who would remind them in the years to come. Then a thought came into his mind. Let us build a statue of Jesus high up in the mountains, between the two countries, so that they will all see it and will remember the teaching of Jesus and will remain at peace.

This was agreed and so the great bronze guns of war which the people had been using were melted down and the metal was taken to a sculptor who made it into a statue of Jesus. It was placed on a train and taken to the foot of the high snowy mountains which lie between the two countries. Then a band of soldiers and sailors from both countries carried the statue up the steep mountain road. Up and up they went until the road was covered with ice and snow, thirteen thousand feet above sea level. There, in 1904, they set up the statue on a huge block of stones cut from the mountain side.

Then a message was sent to the people of both countries – Come the statue is ready. So they came and there, above them all was the figure of Jesus. One of his hands held a cross and the other was stretched out to bless the world and beneath him were the words – He is our peace who hath made both one. And the people were glad that they had met together and were friends again.

The statue is still there today, high in the mountains called the Andes between the countries of Argentina and Chile in South America. And the people of those two countries have been at peace with each other in the name of Jesus ever since that day. And it all happened because of the courage and the love they had for God of just two men.

ANSWERS

Harvest Wordsearch – the 17 unused letters spell out Michaelmas Daisies

Weather in the Bible

1	Wind	2	Rain	3	Dew and Sun	4	Hail	5	Frost	6	Snow
7	Thunder and Lightning	8	Flood	9	Ice	10	Storm				

Wild flowers

1	Primrose	2	Cowslip	3	Harebell	4	Foxglove	5	Buttercup
6	Sorrell	7	Broom	8	Iris	9	Violet	10	Stitchwort
11	Thrift	12	Ragged Robin	13	Thistle	14	Forget-me-not	15	Water Crowfoot

Visit the Holy Lane

1	Jerusalem	2	Moab	3	Beersheba	4	Adullam	5	Marah	6	Haran
7	Nebo	8	Olives	9	Sinai	10	Israel	11	Lebanon	12	Nain
13	Nile	14	Endor	15	Ramah	16	Hebron	17	Nineveh	18	Harad
19	Damascus	20	Sheba	21	Ararat	22	Tekoa	23	Armageddon	24	Nazareth
25	Hazor	26	Ramothgilead	27	Dothan	28	Nob	29	Bethel	30	Lodebar
31	Rome	32	Emmaus	33	Samaria						

Farm animal maze

Pig	Turkey	Geese	Cockerel	Calf	Horse	Foal	Sheep	Cow
Lamb	Bull	Dog	Duck	Kittens	Goat	Hens	Ox	Pony

Halloween

Tuesday 31st October is All Hallows' Eve, otherwise known as Halloween. Nowadays the shops will be full of pumpkins for us to carve and turn into lanterns, but it is thought that the tradition started in Ireland using turnips. The frightening faces scare away evil spirits.

If you are happy to receive children looking for tricks or treats on Halloween, put a pumpkin on your doorstep. Parents usually ensure that their children don't bother neighbours not displaying this sign. You can expect callers between 4 – 8 pm. Children shouldn't be out late – they have school the next day!

To get you in the spooky mood, here are some pictures to colour.



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Mr Rod Garcia-Fermer
Mr Chris Reece

Please contact via email to
Churchwardens@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Deputy Churchwardens
Mr Graeme Anderson 532922
Mr Chris Dobson 539539

Parochial Church Council Secretary
Mrs Mione Palmer 667951

Treasurer and Planned Giving
Mrs Pat Cripps 521447

Safeguarding Officers
Miss Daphne Pilcher 521691
May Graves 680274

DBS Officer
Clive Brown
c/o the Parish Office 521447

Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary
Vivienne Sharp 543263

Choir Leader
Miss Fiona Johnson 07540 273303

Magazine Editors
Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare
c/o the Parish Office
email – magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Flower Arrangers
Mrs Daphne Hodges 533492

Parish Hall Bookings
Churchyards
Enquiries to Parish Office 521447

Rusthall St Paul's Primary School
Executive Headteacher – Mrs Liz Mitchell 520582
Head of School – Mrs Lyndsay Smurthwaite 520582

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.

Organisations

Julian Group
Mrs Pat Stevens 529187

St Paul's Parish Fellowship
Mrs Zillah Witt (Chair) 523028
Mrs Vreni Gould (Secretary) 522185

Group Scout Leader
Gavin Cons
Email – rusthallscoutgroup@gmail.com
Scout Membership Secretary
Merissa Patrick
Email – rusthallscoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk
Beavers: beaversrusthall@gmail.com
Cubs: rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk
Scouts: rusthallscouts@gmail.com

Guide Senior Section
Helen Deller 07720 252481

Guide Guiders
Gemma Bradley 07377 061398

Brownie Guiders
Karen Miller (Thurs)
rustahallbrownies@btinternet.com
Ms Tina Francis (Mon) 545877

Rainbows
Mrs Mary Saunders 319872
Email – saundii@aol.com

Rusthall Lunch Club
Mrs Ros Rodwell 01892 618538

Rusthall Community Larder
Bjorn Simpole 07900 906294

Rusthall Community & Youth Project
Barry Edwards 680296

Rusthall Village Association
Alex Britcher 07967 011467

Rusthall Parish Council
Council Clerk: Alison Stevens 520161

Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee
Annie Softley 548366

Friends of TW and Rusthall Common
Clive Evans 534040



The Parish Office

Parish Administrator - Mrs Ginette di Palma

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

Telephone (01892) 521447

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Magazine email: magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

Website: www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk

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