STPAUL'S NEWS

June 2024



ONE POUND

SERVICES

Sunday 2nd June

The First Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)

President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom

Lead: Daphne Pilcher Link: Liz Mankelow

5.30 pm Pet Service

Minister: The Vicar, Speaker: Tim Cripps

Sunday 9th June

The Second Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Baptism (CW)

President: Rev. Nicholas Burton.

Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom

Lead: Liz Goddard Link: Viv Littlechild

6.30 pm Choral Evensong (BCP)

Minister: The Vicar

Sunday 16th June

The Third Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)

President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom

Lead: Wendy Anderson

Link: Jean Kerr

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)

Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

Sunday 23rd June

The Fourth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Matins (BCP)

Minister & Preacher: Rev. Nicholas Burton

10.00 am Family Service with Holy Communion at the

Church Centre + Zoom President: The Vicar Link: Karen Miller

6.30 pm Parish Eucharist (CW)

President: The Vicar, Preacher: Tim Harrold

Sunday 30th June The Fifth Sunday after Trinity

8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)

President & Preacher: The Vicar

10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)

President & Preacher: The Vicar,

10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom

Lead: Rev. Nicholas Burton Link: Rosemary Romano

6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)

Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

DIARY

Saturday 1st June

The Choir sing Evensong at Gloucester Cathedral

Monday 3rd June

8.00 pm PCC meeting – The Lodge

Wednesday 5th June

10.30 am Julian Meeting at 20 Chancellor House

Thursday 6th June

5.30 pm Evensong at Rochester Cathedral for the

80th Anniversary of the D Day Landings

6.00 pm Youth Council in the Lodge

Saturday 29th June

12-4.30 pm Rusthall Summer Fete

Wednesdays throughout the month

9.00 am Play Time at St Paul's - Church Centre

Thursdays throughout the month

12 for 12.30 Rusthall Lunch Club - Church Centre

Fridays throughout the month

12.30 pm Community Larder - Church Centre

Magazine Article Deadlines

Please submit articles for the 2024 magazines in accordance with the following deadlines:

July/August by Sunday 16th June September by Sunday 18th August October by 16th September November by 13th October December/January by 17th November

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.

Warm greetings to you all and a big thank you to all those who attended our Annual Parochial Church meeting (APCM) this year. No one stepped down from the PCC at the APCM but, as you may remember, Chris Reece resigned as Church Warden in December 2023 and Rod continued as solo Church Warden, ably supported and encouraged by May. At the APCM on the 16th May, Roderick Garcia-Fermer (Rod) and May Graves (May) were elected as Church Wardens for one year and Paul Barter (Bill) was re-elected to serve on the PCC for three years. I am very grateful to them for offering to serve the parish in this way. I look forward to working with them as, together, we continue to seek ways of being effective witnesses and faithful disciples of Christ. Please, let us continue to support all our PCC members and hold them in our prayers: Roderick Garcia-Fermer, May Graves, Mione Palmer, Pat Cripps, Graeme Anderson, Paul Barter, Tony Bourne, Elaine Bruce, Chris Dobson, Nic Farman, Sue Hare, Tim Harrold, Jean Kerr and Daphne Pilcher.

Pat Cripps, our dedicated Treasurer will be stepping down from her role at the end of December. We are grateful to her for the many years – over fifteen years – of devoted service as Treasurer. If any of you are interested in the role of Treasurer of the Parish, please contact Pat through the Parish Office.

On the 12th May three of our members confirmed their Christian faith at a Confirmation service at St Mark's, Tunbridge Wells. In the photo alongside, James Maakestad is on the far left of the photo and Freddie Sarpong is on the far right. Sarah Cronin is next to James Maakestad. Focusing on the Bible readings (Ezekiel 36:24-38 and John 17:6-19), Bishop Jonathan stated that the Confirmation service was a commissioning service. Jesus sends us out into the world just as his Father sent him into the world. We are sent to speak for him, to live for him and to help others to know him – even though it may seem as though we are swimming against the tide. As Christians, our job is to stand out for Jesus, not to blend into the world. We are set apart/sanctified for this – and sanctification is an on-going process. We look forward to worshipping and sharing fellowship with James, Sarah and Freddie.



Some of you have been asking about the funeral details for Hugh Baker. The Funeral service and committal will take place at the Church Centre at 2pm on Wednesday 12th June. Although he has been coming to the Parish Church lately, Hugh - and Jenny were regular worshippers at the Church Centre. So, it is fitting that his funeral service is held there. We will all miss him but, as Christians we have the hope of a great reunion through Jesus Christ. Jesus' resurrection gives us a very unique hope – not just of believing but of living our lives in the knowledge of 'the resurrection of the dead'. Jesus, our resurrected and ascended Saviour and Lord reassures us that, as disciples of his, we shall all be raised on the last day (John 6:39) - and our bodies though perishable will be transformed and raised imperishable (1 Corinthians 15:42), as we take our place in eternity and reside at the place Jesus Christ has prepared for his disciples (John 14:3). What a day of rejoicing that will be. As we look forward to that great reunion and await that special day of great rejoicing, I will end with a prayer written by John Donne:

'Bring us, o Lord God, at our last awakening into the house and gate of Heaven, to enter into that gate and dwell in that house, where there shall be no darkness nor dazzling, but one equal light; no noise nor silence, but one equal music; no fears or hopes, but one equal possession; no ends or beginnings, but one equal eternity, in the habitations of thy glory and dominion, world without end'. Amen.





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 June 2024

After wearing spectacles or contact lenses for the last 60 years, I greet June 2024 needing only reading glasses for close work, having undergone two cataract surgeries and having prescription lenses implanted. It is a strange experience – and I won't miss having to put in multiple eye drops 4 times a day – but the improvement in my vision is a joy. I have been following advice carefully, having a quiet, restful time watching the Giro d'Italia under doctor's orders, which can't be all bad! My other good news is the safe arrival of a new greatniece, Thea Clara, though she has also needed the attention of a surgeon to release a tongue-tie. Her surgery went well too.

The Prime Minister's surprise announcement of a General Election on 4th July, rather than in the autumn as had generally been expected, means that June will be a month of intense electioneering. For many of those seeking election it will be a new experience as 100 of the 650 members of parliament are standing down and not seeking re-election. This includes the MP for Tunbridge Wells, Greg Clark, who was first elected in 2005. He has been a minister for 11 years and a member of the Cabinet for 5 years. He chaired the Science, Innovation and Technology Committee and sponsored a private members bill, the Protection from Sex-based Harassment in Public Act 2023 which received Royal Assent last September. He has also been an active constituency MP, supporting individuals and speaking out in support of local issues such as the extended dualling of the A21 and improvements needed to local water supply. His decision seems to have caught the local Conservative party on the hop as, at time of writing, no alternative Conservative candidate has been announced. In order to be fair to all parties I have therefore decided not to name any of the candidates, you will have to seek more up to date news elsewhere! If you have moved into the area recently you have until one minute to midnight on Tuesday 18th June to register to vote and if you wish to have a postal vote you have until 5pm on Wednesday 19th June to set that up.

At church we enter 'Ordinary Time', a period when we are neither feasting nor fasting. At St Paul's we are starting the month with our annual pet service, so fingers crossed for good weather on 2nd June. There will be national recognition for the 80th Anniversary of the D Day landings on 6th June 1944, with a national event held on the eve of D-Day at Portsmouth, and on D-Day itself a services will be held at Rochester Cathedral, at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, and the British Normandy Memorial in France. Eighty beacons will be lit. The King's Official Birthday will be celebrated on 15th June – one of the events which will still go ahead despite the election. The King hopes to attend the Trooping of the Colour, but his health problems mean that he may have to travel by carriage rather than on horseback as he did last year.

In sport we move from the Giro d'Italia to the Tour de France (29^{th} June -21^{st} July), stopping to watch the UEFA European Football Championships in Germany on the way (14^{th} June -14^{th} July). There are Grand Prix in Canada 7-9th, Spain 21-23rd and Austria 28-30th. Those wishing to qualify for the Paris Olympic Games must do so by the end of June in most sports.

The cover picture is of a cloister at Gloucester Cathedral, where the choir will be singing on 1st June. You might recognise it from Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. The deadline for material for the magazine covering July and August is 16th June, so please think ahead to the following months and make sure we have items for August in time.

Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare

From the Registers

Baptisms – we welcome as a newly Baptised member of the Church Family:

Edward Tobias Farman

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

Hugh Baker

Churchwarden's Notes



This month has been reasonably quiet for the wardens with not too many problems to deal with.

One of the war graves head stones in the church yard has been damaged, not sure how. Rod spent quite a while trying to contact the War Grave commission who eventually contacted him and said that the head stone should be placed flat on the grave.

The commission will repair and replace the broken stone when able.

There has been a bad leak in the choir vestry, Rod believes he has found the problem and has made a temporary repair until the roofers come to repair the damaged roof.

We are pleased to say that the activities for the 175 anniversary are gradually taking shape. I am sure we will be looking for willing volunteers to help with these events.

We are hoping to have another day of deep cleaning in the church, date to be announced. Many hands make light work so please let us know if you are willing to help.

Rod Garcia-Fermer and May Graves

A whirlwind and a storm

I write this on the day after a tremendous storm overnight in the South East 1st/2nd May and I write early as we are going away and your marvellous editors have asked for early copy for June. As it happens the storm suits what I have to write. Those who were awake were treated last night/early morning to a magnificent Son et Lumiere as the thunder and lightning storm rolled northwards. No whirlwinds were recorded but the surprise was certainly there.

These days at St. Paul's we tend to concentrate on New Testament passages from scripture but I want to take a passage from the Old Testament from the book of Job (pronounced Jobe) which is set for Sunday 23rd June.

Back to the storm, which always tend to catch us by surprise, as last night, notwithstanding the weather forecast the unexpected ferocity of the storm came as something of a surprise.

Today, our lives are governed by the need for a quick answer. It is helped by having the phone, the tablet, Alexa (or its equivalent). We can so easily rush to Google for an answer to whatever our question is. I must admit that I have fallen foul as I have an iphone, an ipad and an Apple Mac desktop. I can access information 24/7. Do I need to? Almost certainly not – but, however wonderful it is, it does detract from phoning a friend, visiting the library, grabbing a book or asking someone face to face over a drink or lunch.

In the passage from Job, God answers Job out of the whirlwind, a symbol perhaps of the divine encounter, in a huge act of love. However, instead of a very clear instruction and a to-do list, we are given an insight into a God who desires to build a relationship and with the best will in the world you simply cannot do that with Google. This loving relationship is one in which he probes Job to work out his answers, through questioning and you will not get that element out of Google.

Moving on to Mark we hear in the set passage of the disciples, somewhat bewildered and frightened, as Jesus sleeps while the storm is raging. Just like my wife who slept through the storm. I am never able to sleep through thunder and lightning but as the wind is howling and the storm rages there is always that level of excitement. There is an element of the unexpected, an element of risk often accompanied by fear as we comprehend we are not in control of the elements and need to retreat to safety.

When the storm passes and we wander outside to

the garden it's as if there never has been a storm. Things seem peaceful if not a little reordered. New things emerge that perhaps we had not seen before. There was no doubt that God was questioning Job in parts new to him. Job was in a sense being taken into a storm. He wasn't sure footed. He didn't quite know what was coming next, but he knew he had to trust. Of course this is how we grow into any relationship. We learn to trust each other in the storms that come our way in life...

It is of course during these stormy times that we learn more about ourselves. This self examination, or allowing others to guide us, helps us to develop our deeper relationship with God. It might not reveal all the answers but the questions it raises in the storm are important to hold onto and to revisit when the storm has settled, and new life emerges.

Jesus was modelling good practice of how we need to be in amongst the storms of life and indeed the storms of others. It is of no help in a crisis to shout and scream causing chaos but we need to remain calm. There have been times in my life when I have not been the role model envisaged above. I am better than I used to be and I am able to prevent the red mist falling completely but I have to work at it, after all, at my age should I be getting into a rage about anything?

Now as you read this, there may not have been an overnight storm or a storm outside but we all know that there are many storms in our world and in our lives. Social media, which I ignore, tends to highlight the negative over the positive and it is said to be a factor in the prevalence of mental health problems in the teenage years. Disagreements even at a local level, or within our church, can be whirlwinds or gale force nine. How much better if we could force ourselves into silence, reflection and prayer.

In our prayers let us ask God to help us in the storm of our lives. Help us to realise, like the disciples, that the storms at first seem greater than they really are. Let us always remember we are always treasured and loved by God.

"Patience is a virtue" is a proverbial phrase referring to one of the seven heavenly virtues typically said to date back to *Psychomachia*, an epic poem written in the fifth century. Job was patient, had perseverance, endured suffering, showed great endurance, and was steadfast under intense pressure. James wrote about the patience of Job between the years of 44 and 49 A.D. Believers faced much persecution. My mother used to irritate me intensely by saying that I would never have the patience of Job and my long suffering wife says much the same in not so many words. I

have to recognise my failings and as I begin my 77th year Job's example remains for me a work in progress and perhaps so for you. Storms will continue to hit us. It might be a hurricane, it might be just a squall, but like Job, in our Christian lives, we might adopt the wartime phrase 'stay calm and carry on'.

Recommended reading: Job 38. 1-11 and Mark 4. 35-41.

Tim Cripps



Cobblers!

Edward Timpson, one of many MP's standing down at the next election, will not return to the family shoe repair firm. The MP told Times radio that he did an apprenticeship at Selfridges but sliced off the top of his thumb on a scouring machine. He said that there was blood everywhere and he promptly passed out in front of the customer which was really embarrassing. He decided that politics would be safer and in one way he would keep the family tradition going by being involved in a load of old cobblers!

In fact his family firm has an excellent record for philanthropy, recruiting ex-offenders who find getting offers of employment very challenging, which can encourage reoffending. Although the selection process is rigorous, for those making a genuine effort to turn their life around, they provide them with a second chance. Some have risen to store managers and taken executive positions.

Tim Cripps

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New Honorary Treasurer required

Our Treasurer for many years, Pat Cripps, is retiring at the end of this year. The tasks which Pat undertakes are set out below although Pat adds that some tasks could be handled by different individuals and a Treasury team could be formed, as we have had in the past, to deal with different aspects.

- 1. Counting and documenting all cash and cheques and banking them.
- 2. Paying invoices by direct debit or BACS (and sometimes by cheque, two signatories required) for people supplying work to the Parish and the monthly payment of organists, using details from Fiona and the office for funerals and weddings. Also transferring fees to the choir for funerals and weddings. Graeme Anderson, at present, invoices twice a year for verger duties. One off payments to other vergers who stand in for Graeme.
- 3. Book-keeping, updating the accounts and reconciling the bank statements. The system is fully computerised so some familiarity with computers will be helpful.
- 4. Notifying AMR (accounting firm), the monthly payments for Lorraine (cleaner), Fiona (music director) and Ginette (parish administrator), distributing payslips received from AMR. Paying HMRC for any tax or NI, (taken by direct debit).
- 5. Dealing with suppliers as needed and any associated correspondence.
- 6. Attending and reporting to the Parish Church Council at their meetings (currently held on a Monday night at 8pm, every six weeks).

Monthly

Read Gas meters at Parish Church and at Church Centre and report readings to the Utility Company.

Ouarterly

Preparing return to Rochester Board of Finance of fees for Weddings and Funerals.

Annually

Renewal of various Church Insurances.

End of Year

Preparing accounts from Computer and liaison with an Independent Examiner. Presentation to PCC and the Annual Parochial Church meeting.

Preparation of Charity Commission returns, lodging accounts annually, and providing information on Trustees (PCC members) as required.

Planned Giving Scheme

Documenting envelopes received for planned giving and standing orders (S/O) received into the Church bank account. Quarterly gift aid returns are filed with HMRC using the Finance Donations programme for S/O and envelopes.

A number of parishioners have moved across to the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS) supported by the Diocese, who collect donations and claim Gift Aid on the church's behalf. PGS credit the parish bank account with donations and gift aid received monthly.

If anyone is interested in taking on the role, or part of it, then do please contact the Vicar but if further information is required on any aspect prior to this please contact Pat on 01892 543355.

The post, by definition, is unpaid but all bona fide expenses will be reimbursed.

Thank you.



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"Hello, I'm a dandelion.

A lot of people call me a weed but I'm a friend and come to help you!

My flowers are the first food for insects after hibernation and unlike most other plants, I have pollen AND nectar, not merely one OR the other! And I am generous with them!

When you see me, remember that I'm the ONLY one who wants and can grow in that particular spot. Because:

Either the soil is too compact / hard / stomped and I want to loosen it for you with my roots.

Or there is too little calcium in the soil - don't worry, I will replenish that for you with the dying of my leaves.

Or the soil is too acidic. But I will also improve that for you if you give me the chance.

Or a mixture of the above reasons, of course.

I'm here because your soil needs my help so best you let me grow without disturbing me! When everything is fixed, I will disappear again, I promise!

Are you trying to remove me prematurely with my root? However meticulous you are, I will return 2x as strong! Just until your soil is improved.

You can even tell by my growth at which stage my help is at. If my leaves are flat on the ground then I'm far from ready but if they all reach up then I'm already a long way on my way.

Something completely different is that I am one of the first bloomers in spring so I will announce spring / summer for you.

During the day when it's hot, I open my flowers but in the evening when it cools off I close them again quickly. In fact, if it's not hot enough during the day I won't open them at all!

My flowers are even delicious for you people by the way, did you know? I used to be called "honey (or gold) of the poor" because my flowers are so sweet in e.g. jam, sauce or salad! The internet is full of recipes - check them out.

But wait until the end of May or later before you start picking and even then, don't pick everything yet! The biodiversity and bees will be very grateful!"

Religious Funnies

The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

George Burns

The Sunday School teacher was describing that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom she turned into a pillar of salt, when Bobby interrupted. "My mummy looked back one while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole".

Another Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?" Tommy blurted out, "I know, Aces."

After explaining the commandment to honour your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters. One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered "Thou shalt not kill."

Lot again... A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

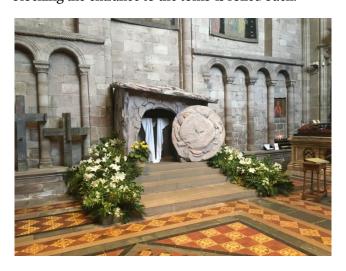
The Church Year Part 5

So we come to Easter Day – the Feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is the oldest celebration of the Church Calendar and probably the greatest and most important. When we say the creed we say – On the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. It is a basic fundamental of our Christian faith.

Easter really begins at 6pm on the Saturday, known as Easter Eve. In olden times it was the time to make ready for the big day. A watchnight vigil was the generally accepted custom in earlier days for Saturday evening, although this is not so common to day. Today the Pascal candle is lit during the main Sunday morning service. The flame of this reminds us that Jesus was the Light of the World and it is also a symbol of Jesus showing Himself to the disciples during the forty days before His ascension and symbolic of new life and hope. It is lit for the last time on Ascension Day when it is extinguished after the reading of the Gospel.

No one quite knows the origin of the name Easter. The Venerable Bede says Eostre was the name of an Anglo-Saxon spring goddess. If so, this is a case – like Christmas – of a Christian festival taking the place of an older pagan one. Easter is celebrated on the Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring equinox hence the reason for the date of Easter differing every year. And so yet again our Church festivals are linked into nature – Spring indicates a new beginning.

On Easter day the church bells, which are traditionally silent during lent, ring out in full force. In Church it is usual to see an Easter Garden, a copy of the garden in which the body of Jesus was laid and at the morning service the stone which had been blocking the entrance to the tomb is rolled back.



I suppose the one thing that virtually everyone connects with Easter is Eggs. In our civilization today chocolate Easter eggs are the in thing, but the meaning behind the egg should not be forgotten. An egg holds within it the secret of new life. There are many customs and traditions relating to Easter eggs. In some districts the dying or painting of eggs is a traditional craft. 'Pasch Monday' is the day for the rite of egg-rolling.

It is not difficult to see why the chick has become a symbol of Easter. It is the chick which breaks out of the shell as Jesus broke out of the tomb. But another feature of Easter, particularly today, is the Easter Bunny. Basically the Easter Bunny has nothing to do with Christianity. In fact originally it was a hare not a rabbit, but the rabbit has become a sign of fertility, of Spring and of a new beginning. It is because of this that over the years people have linked it to the rebirth of Christ as He rose from the dead at Easter time.

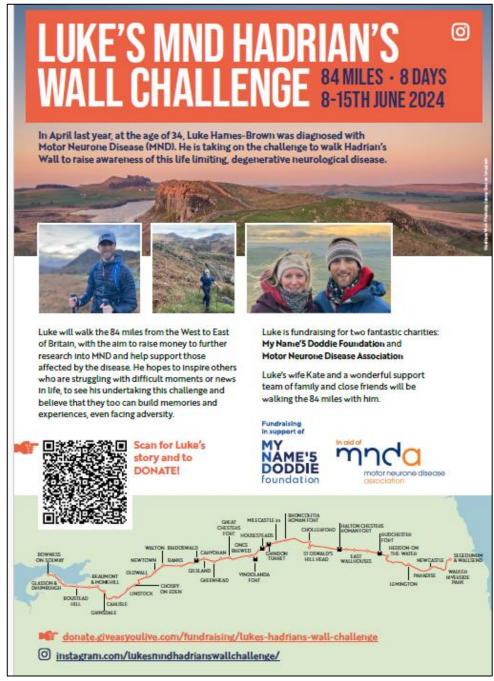
With the passing of Easter the Church is immediately linked to another festival linked with nature – Rogation Sunday. This is the Sunday before Ascension Day. It was a time when a blessing on the crops was asked for, but today it is more generally linked to asking for a blessing on agriculture and industry and for the people who live in the Parish. An old custom, which is still carried out in rural areas is The Beating of the Bounds. This means walking round the boundary of the Parish marking the exact area over which it This was important when has jurisdiction. legislation on such things as boundaries was not laid down as it is today. It does however also have a religious significance in that it reminds all of us that boundaries are important in our lives today.

Ascension Day is the sixth Thursday after Easter and it marks the day when Jesus appeared to His friends for the last time. You might think that this would be a sad occasion, but it is not. This is because we, as Christians, believe that at the Ascension, Christ returned to His heavenly Father in triumph. He had defeated death and sin. He had opened heaven to everyone who follows Him.

Daphne Pilcher

Fundraising Walk of Hadrian's Wall

I met Luke on the day that my son started nursery school and have been friends with his family ever since. Last year dealt Luke and his wife Kate, both doctors, some devastating blows which they are facing with enormous courage and fortitude. They are walking Hadrian's Wall as both personal challenge and to raise funds for their chosen charities. If you read Luke's letter opposite I hope some of you might choose to support them. **Deborah Bruce**



In April 2023, at the age of 34, I was diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease (MND), a life limiting, degenerative neurological disease with an average life expectancy of 30 months from the onset of symptoms. I first developed symptoms in early 2022 with weakness in my leg. Since this time the weakness in my muscles has gradually progressed with more muscles becoming affected.

Receiving this diagnosis was utterly devastating, particularly coming 10 months after my incredible wife Kate and I were married, and when Kate was 4 weeks pregnant.

When first told MND was a possibility I said that even if I were not diagnosed I wanted to do something to fundraise, to try and help make sure others in the future do not have to feel the fear and loss we and our families have experienced.

Over the months since diagnosis this has developed other meanings; I have come to a realisation that whilst a major diagnosis or life event like this will inevitably be a defining, dominating feature of my life, I do have control of how I let that definition occur.

I am making an active choice to use the time I have to create memories for myself and those I love and care for.

I believe that I can, and should, keep doing the things I love for as long as I can. I might not be able to do them in the same way I used to,

but with adaptation and changing my approach I can still be involved in so much.

I have always loved walking, and have a background of 10 years as a doctor in volunteer Search and Rescue. I have wanted to walk Hadrian's Wall for many years and being diagnosed with MND has motivated that I should use this as an opportunity to raise awareness.

I will walk the 84 miles from the West to East coast of Britain over 8 days from 8th-15th June 2024.

I hope to raise money to further research into MND and help support those affected by the disease, and also hope that perhaps people out there who are struggling with difficult moments or news in life might see my undertaking this challenge and believe that you can build memories and experiences, even facing adversity.

https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/lukes-hadrians-wall-challenge

I am fundraising for two fantastic Motor Neurone Disease Charities. 'My Name5 Doddie Foundation' and 'Motor Neurone Disease Association'.

My wife and a wonderful support team of family and close friends will be walking the 84 miles with me. In October last year our son Rowan was stillborn at 31 weeks, we had excellent care at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford and have since been very grateful to be supported by the charity Petals. Kate has a separate JustGiving page to raise funds for Petals, please take a look and donate if you can:

justgiving.com/page/kate--hb

Thank you so much. Luke



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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

Poems for June

These three poems by Mary Oliver (one very short, and the last one a prose poem) seem to capture an essential human tension: whilst knowing that there is much suffering in the world that, try as we might, we can never wholly assuage, we nonetheless have a parallel impulse to feel love and joy.

Susan Barber

This Day, and Probably Tomorrow Also

Full of thought, regret, hope dashed or not dashed vet.

full of memory, pride, and more than enough of spilled, personal grief,

I begin another page, another poem.

So many notions fill the day! I give them gowns of words, sometimes I give them little shoes that rhyme.

What an elite life!

While somewhere someone is kissing a face that is crying.

While somewhere women are walking out, at two in the morning -

many miles to find water.

While somewhere a bomb is getting ready to explode.



Watching a Documentary about Polar Bears Trying to Survive on Melting Ice Floes

That God had a plan, I do not doubt. But what if His plan was, that we would do better?



Don't Hesitate

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it. There are plenty of lives and whole towns destroyed or about to be. We are not wise, and not very often kind. And much can never be redeemed. Still, life has some possibility left. Perhaps this is its way of fighting back, that sometimes something happens better than all the riches or power in the world. It could be anything, but very likely you notice it in the instant when love begins. Anyway, that's often the case. Anyway, whatever it is, don't be afraid of its plenty. Joy is not made to be a crumb.





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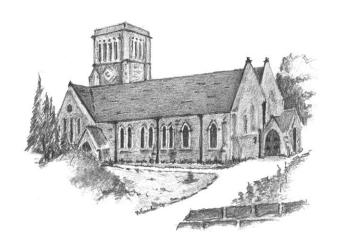
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A Musical Note



Following a very busy rehearsal period over the last few weeks, we decided to have a rather more chilled choir practice this week and those who wanted to wrote a little something to be included in the Parish Magazine.

Daniel

My choral music journey began almost 11 years ago when my parents brought me to my first Friday evening Junior Choir practice at St Paul's. I remember the terror I felt as my Mum walked away down the aisle, and the kindness of everyone trying to make me feel welcome. Trying – rather unsuccessfully – to hold back the tears, I moved to my place and the practice All these years later, I'm still here! Looking back, spending my Fridays and Sundays with this lovely group of people has been a formative part of my childhood, and as I move off to university, I'm excited to keep choral music a big part of my life. Thanks to the wonderful opportunities I've been given and experience I have gained here at St Paul's over the years, I am over the moon to have been successful in my auditions for a choral scholarship at the University of Cambridge and an organ scholarship at the University of St After an agonising period of Andrews. deliberation, I have decided to accept the scholarship at St Andrews and so, with all things going to plan, I hope to be accompanying the chapel choir from September. This is a wonderful opportunity to build on everything I have learned here, and I am so grateful to everyone who has been a part of my musical journey at St Paul's, especially to Fiona, without whom none of this would happen. I will miss you all so much and promise to come back when Scotland gets too cold!

Bella

I enjoy being in the choir because I love singing with my friends and being rewarded with sweets. Every Sunday I have fun wearing my robe and learning about church in the services.

I am excited for choir camp as it is a week full of joy with friends.

Marcy

On Sunday 5th May, Edward Tobias Farman was baptised at Rusthall Church. All of the junior choir went to watch the Baptism in the Mantle Chapel as the adults sang the anthem. I really enjoyed the morning and it was the highlight of my week as I got to see Edward be baptised and spend time with my friends. Edward was super well-behaved and was very cute throughout the whole event. I have been to many baptisms but this was by far my favourite!

<u>Flora</u>

I had never been to a Baptism before, apart from obviously my own, and although I couldn't properly see Edward from where I was standing I am sure he was really cute. I also think that the choir worked very hard at all of the singing and that it was a great success. I found the Baptism a very pleasant and interesting experience.

Tom

After the service, we made our way over to the Lodge for the buffet-style lunch. Deborah had made the most fabulously decorated cake with Edward's name beautifully spelled out in icing. On top was an amazing icing train!! We all had a fabulous time (and a delicious slice of cake) and we are very grateful to Jennifer, Nic and Deborah for the amazing party.

Hannah

The choir are looking forward to some upcoming Cathedral singing. Our next Cathedral outing is to Gloucester on 1st June (all are welcome to come along and support us) and then we are singing at St Paul's Cathedral in London on 3rd & 4th August which is very exciting. Then on 7th & 8th September we are singing at St Alban's Cathedral. We are having our summer concert which is always a lot of fun on 29th June at 6.30pm so please come along and watch us. And then, of course, in August we have our annual Choir Camp filled with lots of singing and fun with our friends. We are extraordinarily excited for the summer of singing.

Lucia

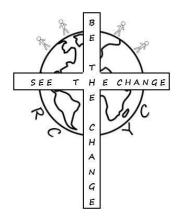
I am the Head Chorister this year and so far it has been so much fun. I like leading the procession (behind Bill, or John, or Paul with the Cross) with Marcy or Tom or anyone else but I also like being at the back because you get

to hear more of the organ voluntary at the end of the service. I also really like my medal, it is very big and I like being in charge of handing out the sweets on a Friday and after the service on a Sunday. I enjoy singing soprano because it is really fun but sometimes it can also be quite challenging. I also like singing solos and duets even though it can be scary but most of all I like when we all sing together as a choir because the sound is amazing. This is the best choir in the world, I love being a part of it.

Callan & Teddy

Choir is a very joyful place for singing and you can get medals if you do good singing. We are really looking forward to choir camp and for the nice music that we will sing. We also like choir because we get sweets and get paid every term and we also make good friends here.

St Paul's Church Youth Council



RUSTHALL CHURCH YOUTH COUNCIL

A264 Speed Reduction Campaign

We were delighted that the Youth Council were represented at the protest rally held on Saturday 4th May at the Cricket Ground. The village were out in force to support the campaign to reduce the speed limit from 40 to 30 mph to enable everyone to be able to cross this road more safely. At our last meeting each member gave a recorded message of their personal experiences at crossing the road. These were sent to Liz Ellicot at the Parish Council who described them to KCC as 'harrowing'. We have also all participated in the 'postcard initiative' thereby providing yet more evidence for the great need for this speed reduction. Well done CYC!



May Meeting

We were thrilled to welcome Ranger Dan to our meeting who took us on a wonderful and fascinating tour of Happy Valley pointing out many areas of interest and history. We all loved the stories, plants, insects and Dan's sense of humour! We hope Dan will return to our September meeting.

Next Meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on **Thursday 6th June** at 6 pm in the Lodge. We look forward to welcoming the local community police officer who will talk about the vital role the police play in keeping us and our village safe. All children aged 11 to 17 are very welcome.

<u>Raffle</u>

Tickets for our 'Bee related' raffle will be on sale at both churches with the draw taking place at the next Joint Service on 8th July.



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Activity Pages

Wordsearch

This Wordsearch is based on colours or items which tend to be colour related. The words are written vertically, horizontally or diagonally, forwards or backwards. At the end you will be left with eight unused letters. These will make up two of the liturgical colours of the Altar cloths during the year.

W	K	C	A	L	В	A	Y	R	Ο	V	Ι
P	K	N	I	P	N	E	E	R	G	N	T
E	F	L	A	M	E	D	A	R	D	E	R
A	A	E	P	В	Н	N	E	I	S	E	N
C	E	A	U	U	G	Y	G	S	D	В	A
Н	T	F	R	E	C	O	U	N	E	R	Y
A	F	E	P	D	I	R	E	P	P	O	C
R	T	E	L	Ο	I	V	E	A	E	N	О
C	R	Ο	E	R	A	P	M	T	A	Z	R
О	G	M	O	L	A	В	L	O	T	E	A
Α	Ι	A	S	Н	E	C	R	U	S	U	L
L	N	T	D	R	A	T	S	U	M	S	В

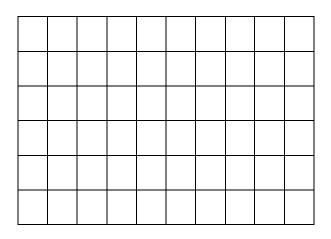
AMBER	ASH	BAY
BLACK	BRONZE	BUFF
BUTTERCUP	CHARCOAL	COPPER
CORAL	CYAN	ECRU
FLAME	GOLD	GREEN
GREY	LAVENDER	LIME
INDIGO	IVORY	LILAC
LEAF	MOSS	MUSTARD
ORANGE	PEACH	PEAT
PINK	PLUM	PURPLE
RUSSET	ROAN	SCARLET
VIOLET		

The Beach is calling – complete the different shell creatures which are found around our shores.

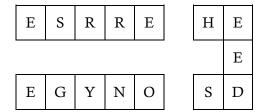
Some of these shell creatures are edible and some are not.

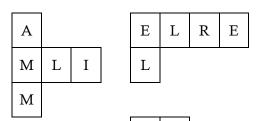
About Tools

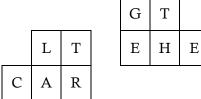
Fit the five letter shapes into the grid. When the grid is complete the columns will contain the names of ten 'tools'.



L	K	С	W		L
Ι			E	E	Е
E	W	Т	L	R	Т







D

S

Н	M	С	N
			A

A **General Crossword** with a difference. In each case the last letter of one answer is the first one of the next.

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

- 1. County town of Norfolk
- 2. Christmas decoration
- 3. Sailing boat
- 4. Drink
- 5. He uses a bow and arrow
- 6. Trains need these
- 7. A planet
- 8. An Egyptian river
- 9. Arm joint
- 10. Stinging insect
- 11. Musical instrument
- 12. A fruit from Jaffa
- 13. An intellectual type
- 14. Patron Saint of Wales
- 15. Water fowl
- 16. Uniform colour
- 17. Colour in the rainbow
- 18. Group of fruit trees
- 19. Fifth book in the Bible
- 20. Jewish name for God
- 21. Useful if you have a cold
- 22. Pond inhabitant
- 23. One of the Channel Islands
- 24. One of the guards of the Tower of London
- 25. Stocking fabric
- 26. Memo
- 27. Snake-like fish
- 28. Scottish lake
- 29. Board Game
- 30. Room at the top of a house
- 31. Fortified house.

General Crossword

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

Clues Across

- 1. Twenty ninth book of the Old Testament
- 4. Surname of Bob who starred in Ghostbusters
- 7. A chopping tool
- 8. Last of the two sons of Jacob and Zilpah mentioned in Genesis
- 9. Ceremonial rituals mark a change of status
- 11. He led a revolt against Moses in Numbers Chapter 16
- 13. Not clean
- 15. A cocktail fruit
- 18. Brother of Aaron
- 21. Senior figure
- 22. Marshland grass
- 23. Rowing instrument
- 24. Biblical name given to a false god
- 25. 365 days

Clues Down

- 2. Unidentified region famous for its fine gold
- 3. A deciduous conifer
- 4. King at the time of the birth of Jesus
- 5. Disciple who denied knowing Jesus
- 6. Second book in the New Testament
- 10. Speak
- 12. Frying substance
- 14. Foot digit
- 15. _____ more River
- 16. Large country of south Asia
- 17. Sign up
- 18. Old King Cole was this type of person
- 19. A Queen came from this country to visit King Solomon
- 20. Type of window

Twenty Questions to Test You

- 1. What name is given to the Sunday when a Blessing on the crops is requested?
- 2. Who is the Patron Saint of Ireland?
- 3. Who in the Bible was a very close friend of David?
- 4. First name of the highwayman Turpin.
- 5. The organizer of Live Aid.
- 6. Who wrote the opera Tosca?
- 7. First name of Prince Edward's wife
- 8. Of what was Len Goodman formerly a judge?
- 9. What is a samovar?
- 10. Name the County town of Cornwall
- 11. What is the name given to the River Thames at Oxford?
- 12. Name given to the 'Leaning Tower' city of Italy
- 13. Who was British Prime Minister from 1955-1957?
- 14. What was the first Biblical home of Adam and Eve?
- 15. Which US State is known as the Mormon State?
- 16. What name is given to the Alpine form of singing?
- 17. Name Winnie the Pooh's bouncy friend
- 18. What was the original language of the Old Testament?
- 19. What is the liturgical colour for Trinity?
- 20. What bird is often featured on a Lectern?

Aurora Borealis

Regular readers will know that I am partial to an astronomical phenomenon. So often sightings are foiled because of bad weather, so imagine how cross I was to discover that the one time the Aurora Borealis, otherwise known as the Northern Lights, was visible from southern England, I had gone to bed feeling groggy after my cataract surgery. I woke to find the family WhatsApp group awash with fantastic photos taken in Tunbridge Wells.



[with apologies to our readers of the print version in black and white]

Deborah Bruce

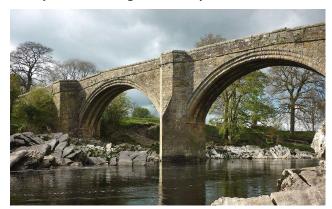
Big Stone



Have you visited this place? This impressive stone stands proud on a lonely moorland road south of High Bentham on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales.

Big Stone is over 5 metres high, and offers views of Ingleborough on a clear day. At some point some strong soul painstakingly carved steps up the side of the stone so you can climb to the top. It is probably a glacial erratic, transported to this spot when the ice retreated millennia ago.

Some people think the stone was a boundary marker between Yorkshire and Lancashire, others that it was once a meeting place. Some think it was dropped there by the same devil who built the nearby Devil's Bridge, at Kirkby Lonsdale.



The folk tale surrounding the bridge tells of an old woman who lived on the banks of the River Lune with a few animals. One night her cow strayed across the river and would not be tempted back, no matter how much she coaxed and implored. The devil appeared to her, offering to build a bridge in exchange for the soul of the first body to cross it. The devil constructed the bridge with his own hands, leaving a print in the wet stone. The next day the woman met the devil at the bridge and agreed to fulfil her part of the bargain. She took a bun from her bag and threw it across the bridge, whereupon her small dog raced across to retrieve it. The devil, in a fit of rage at being outwitted, howled in anger and vanished in a cloud of brimstone. At the apex of the bridge, there's a deep impression in the stone - often referred to as the devil's handprint.

Deborah Bruce

ANSWERS

WordSearch

The two liturgical colours of Altar cloths – white and red

The Beach is calling

1	Whelk	2	Prawn	3	Cockle
4	Cowrie	5	Oyster	6	Shrimp
7	Mussel	8	Crab	9	Limpet
10	Winkle				_

Twenty Questions to Test You

1.	Rogation Sunday	2.	Patrick
3.	Jonathan	4.	Dick
5.	Bob Geldof	6.	Puccini
7.	Sophie	8.	Strictly Come Dancing
9.	Russian form of urr	ı 10.	Truro
11.	Isis	12.	Pisa
13.	Anthony Eden	14.	Eden
15.	Utah	16.	Yodelling
17.	Tigger	18.	Hebrew
19.	Green	20.	Eagle

About Tools

Reading the vertical columns from left to right:
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Lancet Trowel

General Crossword with a Difference

1	Norwich	2	Holly	3	Yacht
4	Tea	5	Archer	6	Rails
7	Saturn	8	Nile	9	Elbow
10	Wasp	11	Piano	12	Orange
13	Egghead	14	David	15	Duck
16	Khaki	17	Indigo	18	Orchard
19	Deuteronomy	20	Yahweh	21	Handkerchief
22	Frog	23	Guernsey	24	Yeoman
25	Nylon	26	Note	27	Eel
28	Loch	29	Halma	30	Attic
31	Castle				

General Crossword									
Acı	OSS								
1	Joel		4	Hope	7	Axe			
8	Asher		9	Rites	11	Korah			
13	Dirty		15	Olive	18	Moses			
21	Elder		22	Reeds	23	Oa			
24	Baa1		25	Year					
Do	wn								
2	Ophir		3	Larch	4	Herod			
5	Peter		6	Mark	10	Say			
12	Oil		14	Toe	15	One			
16	India		17	Enrol	18	Merry			
		19	5	Sheba 20		Sash			

Knick Knack



A frog goes into a bank and approaches the teller. He can see from her nameplate that her name is Patty Whack.

"Miss Whack, I'd like to get a \$30,000 loan to take a holiday."

Patty looks at the frog in disbelief and asks his name. The frog says his name is Kermit Jagger, his dad is Mick Jagger, and that it's okay, he knows the bank manager.

Patty explains that he will need to secure the loan with some collateral.

The frog says, "Sure. I have this," and produces a tiny porcelain elephant, about an inch tall, bright pink and perfectly formed.

Very confused, Patty explains that she'll have to consult with the bank manager and disappears into a back office.

She finds the manager and says, "There's a frog called Kermit Jagger out there who claims to know you and wants to borrow \$30,000, and he wants to use this as collateral." She holds up the tiny pink elephant. "I mean, what in the world is this?"

(You're gonna love this.)

The bank manager looks back at her and says, "It's a knickknack, Patty Whack. Give the frog a loan. His old man's a Rolling Stone."

(You sang it, didn't you? Yeah, I know you did.)

Never take life too seriously!

[courtesy of Facebook via "Sisterhood Connecting as One"]



Rusthall Community Cinema



Wicked Little Letters (2023) Cert 15

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 8th June 2024

Director: Thea Sharrock

Genre: Comedy, Crime, Drama

Runtime: 1h 42 mins

Starring: Jessie Buckley, Olivia Colman, Malachi Kirby,

Timothy Spall, Jason Watkins



The Holdovers (2023) Cert 15

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 22nd June 2024

Director: Alexander Payne Genre: Comedy, Drama Runtime: 2h 13 mins

Starring: Ian Dolley, Paul Giamatti, Da'Vine Joy Randolph,

Carrie Preston



NT Live: Nye (Cert 15)

Doors open: 2pm Sunday 23rd June 2024

Director: Tim Price

Genre: Filmed Live Theatre

Runtime: 2 h 45 mins (including interval)

Starring: Michael Sheen, Sharon Small, Tony Jayawardena



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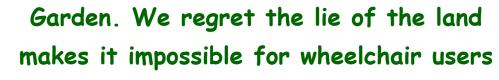


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520582

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

Head of School - Mrs Lyndsay Smurthwaite

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.

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529187

rusthallsquirrels@gmail.com beaversrusthall@gmail.com rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk rusthallscouts@gmail.com

07720 252481

545877

Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee

Annie Softley 548366

Friends of TW and Rusthall Common

Clive Evans 518975



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