

# ST PAUL'S NEWS



May 2026

ONE POUND

## SERVICES

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: Rev Nicholas Burton  
Minister: Tim Harrold
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom  
Lead: Daphne Pilcher  
Link: Karen Miller
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)  
Minister & Preacher: Tim Harrold

### Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre  
Minister: Tim Harrold

### Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May

#### Sixth Sunday of Easter

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW) with Baptism  
President & Preacher: The Vicar  
Minister: Daphne Pilcher
- 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

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Parish Church  
Minister: The Vicar

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre  
Minister: The Vicar

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May

#### Ascension

- 11.30 am Said Holy Communion at the Church Centre  
President: The Vicar
- 8.00 pm Holy Communion  
Minister: The Vicar

### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May

#### The Sunday after Ascension

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar  
Minister: Daphne Pilcher
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom  
Lead: Wendy Anderson  
Link: Susan Powley
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)  
Minister: Tim Harrold  
Preacher: Daphne Pilcher

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Parish Church  
Minister: The Vicar

### Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre  
Minister: The Vicar

### Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May

- 11.30 am Said Holy Communion at the Church Centre  
President: The Vicar

### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May

#### Pentecost/Whitsun

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Joint Festival Eucharist (CW) and  
Commissioning of PCC members  
President: The Vicar  
Minister & Preacher: Rev Nicholas Burton
- 4.00 pm Taize Service at the Church Centre  
Minister: Tim Harrold
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)  
Minister & Preacher: The Vicar

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer at the Church Centre  
Minister: The Vicar

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May

- 11.30 am Said Holy Communion at the Church Centre  
President: The Vicar

### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

#### Trinity Sunday

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (BCP)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar
- 10.00 am Parish Eucharist (CW)  
President & Preacher: The Vicar  
Minister: Daphne Pilcher
- 10.00 am Family Service at the Church Centre + Zoom  
Lead: Tim Harrold  
Link: Karen Miller
- 6.30 pm Evensong (BCP)

## DIARY

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**HALLS CLOSED FOR POLLING STATION ALL DAY**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May**

11.00 am Family Service Meeting – Church Centre

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May**

8.00 pm PCC Meeting in the Lodge

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May**

7.45 pm APCM – Church Centre

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May**

3.00 pm Communion to Chamberlain Court  
John Bazley

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May**

7.30 pm Worship Committee in the Lodge

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

8.00 pm Bacchus Wind Orchestra concert in aid of the Organ Renovation Fund

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May**

11.00 am Communion to Mt Ephraim House  
John Bazley

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May**

6.30 pm Choir Cumber concert

**Wednesdays throughout the month**

9.00 – 11.00 am Playtime at St Paul's at the Church Centre

**Thursdays throughout the month**

12 for 12.30 pm Rusthall Lunch Club  
at the Church Centre



**Fridays throughout the month**

12.30 – 2.00 pm Community Larder  
at the Church Centre

**Saturdays & Sundays throughout the month**

10 am – 4 pm Choristers Café in the Lodge

## From the Registers



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

Patricia (Pat) Joan Lesley

## Dates for Your Diary

Future events taking place at St Paul's Church

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July

Hymns and Pimms

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July

Grenadillas Clarinet Concert

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> July

"I am Mark" play

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August

End of Camp concert

Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September

An Evening at the Musicals

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November

Concert for Remembrance

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November

Readings and Music for Advent

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December

Sponsored Sing-a-thon

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December

Nine Lessons and Carols

## Magazine Deadlines

Please submit articles for the 2026 magazines in accordance with the following deadlines.

June 2026 by 17<sup>th</sup> May

July/Aug 2026 by 14<sup>th</sup> June

Sept 2026 by 16<sup>th</sup> August

October 2026 by 13<sup>th</sup> September

November 2026 by 11<sup>th</sup> October

December 2026/January 2027 by 15 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](mailto:magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk).

Magazines are posted on the Parish website by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Photocopies of the magazine can be made available to those who cannot access the magazine online. Please contact Helen Reynolds at the Church Office (TW 521447) to arrange production and collection/delivery.

# endley

## Removals & Storage

Tel: 01892 837207

Email: [info@hendleyremovals.co.uk](mailto:info@hendleyremovals.co.uk)

Web: [www.hendleyremovals.co.uk](http://www.hendleyremovals.co.uk)

***“Your local family run movers & storers”***



### **BLACKHAM VILLAGE MARKET & CAFE**

**SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026**

**10AM TO 12.15PM**

TEA, COFFEE, AND HOMEMADE CAKES SERVED FROM 10AM  
LOTS OF LOVELY THINGS TO BUY: HOMEMADE PASTIES,  
CAKES AND PRESERVES, LOCALLY MADE BREAD, LOCAL  
HONEY, BIRD FOOD, EGGS, CRAFT ITEMS AND BRIC A BRAC

## From the Vicarage

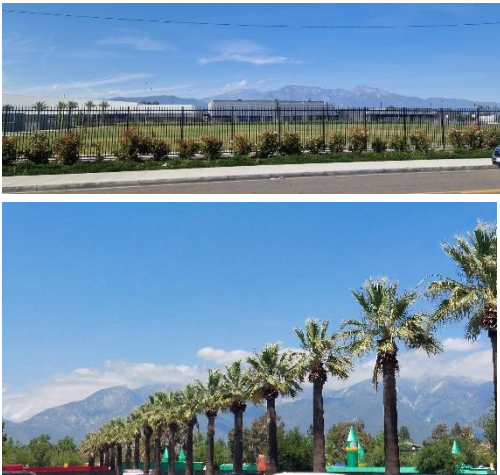
May 2026

Alleluia, Christ is risen! Greetings and a big thank you for your prayerful support and involvement in the life and ministry of the parish. A very big thank you to Fiona and members of the choir for The Messiah concert on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April, and to everyone who attended. It was a very special evening, and being the day before we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ gave immense poignancy to the music. As disciples of Christ, we know that our Redeemer lives and because he lives, he has assured us that we shall live also, and that death has no dominion over us. This is quite refreshing and reassuring, and should spur us to live for him, in the knowledge that whether we live or die, we belong to God.

As I write, I'm actually in an Airbnb accommodation in Ontario, California. I'm here with a group of friends to attend the wedding of another dear friend, Berto (Albert). He actually visited us at St Paul's in 2021. He is also part (the chair) of the Diocesan Youth Fellowship Alumni (DYFA) that has been raising money to support school children in Freetown.

I drove for just under two hours from Los Angeles airport to Chino in a hired car. Apart from the delay in collecting the hire car, the journey to Chino was quite pleasant. The weather reminds me a lot of Freetown, Sierra Leone, with temperatures around 28 degrees centigrade. The views are stunning, with cascading mountains and palm trees.

As a group, we have been helping the groom and bride in various ways, and visited Holy Trinity Church, Covina, the church that we will be attending on the Sunday after the wedding. It will be a Confirmation service and I have been asked to say the prayers for the candidates/confirmands. I'm grateful to Nicholas, Daphne and Tim for taking the services in my absence.



Berto (Groom) at St Paul's in 2021



May the light of Christ continually shine in our hearts and through our lives, that everyone who come to know us would love to know Christ.

Ronnie

# E. R. HICKMOTT & SON



41, GROVE HILL ROAD  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS  
Tel: (01892) 522462 (two lines)  
Fax: (01892) 533807



## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

*Members of N.A.F.D and S.A.I.F.*

The only long established family-owned funeral directors in Tunbridge Wells.

**Golden Charter Pre-payment funeral plans available.**  
**Owned and run by the family in Tunbridge Wells for six generations.**  
**Twenty-four hour emergency service – Qualified Funeral Directors.**



[www.RusthallVets.co.uk](http://www.RusthallVets.co.uk)

20 ASHLEY GARDENS,  
RUSTHALL,  
TUNBRIDGE WELLS,  
KENT, TN4 8TU.  
Telephone (01892) 511715

Monday to Friday  
9.00-11.00 am      4.30-6.30 pm  
Saturday  
9.00-11.00 am      closed



## Secretarial Services

Faxing  
Photocopying  
**Typing**  
Handmade Greetings Cards  
Stationery Items

1 High Street  
Rusthall  
TN4 8RL

**01892 515188**

[suzanne@kmj-secretarial-services.co.uk](mailto:suzanne@kmj-secretarial-services.co.uk)

## Editorial for May 2026

May has arrived! We might not be dancing round the maypole or crowning a May Queen but spring is definitely here, with warmer weather (most of the time) and lighter evenings. I spent most of April trying to tame my natural night owl, as I was summoned to do jury service at Maidstone Crown Court and each letter received gave an earlier start time. Those of you who know me well know that I barely make it to church on time for the 10am service, so I was really dreading having to get to Maidstone on a weekday for 8.45 am. My initial attempts to go to bed early just resulted in waking up at 3 am and not being able to get back to sleep. My body clock just doesn't want to help! Apparently, I am not that unusual. Professor Hannah Fry explains that the annual shift to British Summer Time has no impact on cows or farmers and produces no savings in electricity, but the shock to our circadian rhythms causes a 6% increase in fatal car accidents the next day, an increase in heart attacks and a huge spike in workplace accidents. At least May is a double bank holiday month – that's two Mondays I'm guaranteed a lie-in! In the event I only had to attend court once before I was released, duty done.

Fiona Johnson has written about the wonderful performance of The Messiah given by the choir. I was so proud to be part of it. Every performance I've been involved in has been different. This one goes down as the one where I sang the whole of The Messiah with a dog sitting under my chair – a beautifully behaved Dido. Other dogs in the audience were similarly well behaved and even joined in standing for the Hallelujah Chorus. It was a great start to the mammoth fundraising effort that will be needed to refurbish the organ, raising about £2500 after expenses

In church during May we will be busy celebrating Ascension Day on 14<sup>th</sup> – no early morning singing from the top of the tower but there is a special service in the evening. Then there's Whitsunday, or Pentecost if you prefer, on the 24<sup>th</sup> and Trinity Sunday on the 31<sup>st</sup>. It is also a month when we celebrate three apostles, Philip and James on 1<sup>st</sup>, Matthias on the 15<sup>th</sup>, and three Archbishops of Canterbury, St Dunstan on 19<sup>th</sup>, Augustine on 26<sup>th</sup> and Lanfranc on 28<sup>th</sup>. We also remember the monk and historian known as the Venerable Bede, who died in 735 and who many feel would make a more worthy national saint than St George, who probably did not slay a dragon and seems to have no links to England.

Elsewhere the country will be glued to Eurovision in Vienna on 19<sup>th</sup> May – the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first competition in 1956, and the FA Cup Final on 16<sup>th</sup> May. Did you know that the new Wembley Stadium has more toilets than any other building in the world? It has 2618 standard cubicles, plus additional urinals and accessible toilets – although with a capacity of 90,000 that's still only about 1 toilet for every 35 people. That's still much better than the average theatre – or indeed Tunbridge Wells town centre. Star Wars fans celebrate Star Wars Day – May the fourth be with you! Both Mental Health Awareness Week and Sun Awareness Week are 11-17<sup>th</sup> May and World Asthma Day is on 5<sup>th</sup> May. Polling in the local elections takes place on 7<sup>th</sup> May, with the Church Centre used as a Polling Centre.

We are trying to include the dates of church events planned further into the future in the magazine. You will find them at the front of the magazine on the Services and Diary pages. Don't forget to transfer them to your own diary. One date that should definitely be there is the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May, which this year will be held at 7.45pm at the Church Centre. It is your chance to hear what is happening in St Paul's and to vote on the people charged with running the church.

Please get your articles for the June magazine to the editors by 17<sup>th</sup> May. The picture on the cover depicts the Holy spirit descending on the apostles at Pentecost, taken from an East Anglian Missal (music book) now held in the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth.

Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare



## Churchwarden's Notes



It is a beautiful sunny day as I sit and write my final warden's notes as church warden. It has not always been the easiest job but I would like to thank you all for your support over the years.

It was good to see so many of you at the numerous services over Easter. The choir's rendition of the Messiah was also very well attended; thanks go to everyone that took part. As a member I really enjoyed singing with the rest of the choir.

As you are aware the organ is need of renovation and we are in the process of putting on events to help towards funds for the work that needs doing. Keep an eye out for the notices about upcoming events.

A reminder that our annual parochial church meeting (APCM) will be held on 12th May at 7.45 pm at the Church Centre. This is the meeting at which we report on events of the past year and elect wardens, deputy wardens, PCC members and members of Deanery Synod. It would be good to see lots of you there.

We are also still looking for someone to take on the role of PCC Secretary. If you might be interested, please speak to the wardens or Ronnie.

### May Graves

## Ascension Day and the Mission of Christ

The month of May presents many opportunities for the Preacher or Sermoniser as it is packed with Feast Days. Apart from the remaining days of Easter, we have Ascension Day on the 14th, Pentecost on the 21st and Trinity Sunday on the 31st.

This month I have chosen to write on Ascension Day which is perhaps the lesser of the feasts but nevertheless is most important in the Christian Calendar. Ascension Day is 40 days from Easter and I have long been puzzled as to why forty days appears so often in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Here are a few examples.

In the Old Testament, when God destroyed the earth with water, He caused it to rain 40 days and 40 nights ([Genesis 7:12](#)). After Moses killed the Egyptian, he fled to Midian, where he spent 40 years in the desert tending flocks ([Acts 7:30](#)). Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and 40 nights ([Exodus 24:18](#)). Moses interceded on Israel's behalf for 40 days and 40 nights ([Deuteronomy 9:18, 25](#)). The Law specified a maximum number of lashes a man could receive for a crime, setting the limit at 40 ([Deuteronomy 25:3](#)). The Israelite spies took 40 days to spy out Canaan ([Numbers 13:25](#)). The Israelites wandered for 40 years ([Deuteronomy 8:2-5](#)). Before Samson's deliverance, Israel served the Philistines for 40 years ([Judges 13:1](#)). Goliath taunted Saul's army for 40 days before David arrived to slay him ([1 Samuel 17:16](#)). When Elijah fled from Jezebel, he travelled 40 days and 40 nights to Mt. Horeb ([1 Kings 19:8](#)). The number 40 also appears in the prophecies of Ezekiel ([4:6; 29:11-13](#)) and Jonah ([3:4](#)).

In the New Testament, Jesus was tempted for 40 days and 40 nights ([Matthew 4:2](#)). There were 40 days between Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension ([Acts 1:3](#)).

Whether or not the number **40** really has any significance is still debated. The Bible definitely seems to use 40 to emphasise a spiritual truth, but the Bible nowhere specifically assigns any special meaning to the number 40. It is perhaps one of those mysteries we just have to accept, as we come to Ascension Day.

Ascension Day is not an easy feast to celebrate. It doesn't feel joyful. For the disciples, it was a moment of loss and loneliness. Even as they asked Jesus if he would restore the kingdom to Israel, he was taken from their sight. It must have felt like the crucifixion all over again, another departure,

another grief. Celebration was surely the last thing on their minds.

When they return to Jerusalem, the disciples immediately seek the comfort of the upper room where they stay isolated and afraid. It was as if the Resurrection had never happened.

Ascension Day can feel perplexing and uncomfortable for us too which might explain why our Thursday evening services are so sparsely attended.

The reading from John 17 reminds us that Jesus had prepared his disciples for this moment. At the Last Supper, he prayed for them, knowing he would soon leave them. He asked the Father to protect them and to keep them united. As the prayer continues beyond verse 11, Jesus tells them that they will be sent into the world so that others might come to believe through their witness. Ascension, then, is the moment when the mission is passed from Jesus to his disciples.

Jesus had completed his saving work through death and resurrection, but the mission itself continues. And now it rests in the hands of a few rather unremarkable people. The Gospels are honest about the disciples: James and John grasp for privilege; Thomas doubts; Judas betrays; Peter is impulsive and unfaithful. Yet these are the people Jesus entrusts with God's mission. In other words, a good cross section of people just like you and me. No wonder they feel daunted.

Ascension is no less daunting for us. Their mission is now our mission. They fulfilled their task and inspired a new generation to continue in the way. And generation after generation, the task has been handed on, until it reaches us, here and now. The weight of it can make us want to retreat and hide, just as the disciples did.

During the 1980s, the Anglican Communion reflected on what it means to be the Church today. They concluded that the Church is defined not by its structures but by its aims. They said: 'The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ.'

They identified five marks of this mission:

To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom

To teach, baptise, and nurture new believers

To respond to human need with loving service

To transform unjust structures, challenge violence, and pursue peace and reconciliation

To safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

These are not easy tasks and in modern times these values are treated with no less than contempt by some. Jesus told his disciples they would be hated for the message they carried, and indeed the experience meets the same resistance today in many parts of the world. These responsibilities would crush any individual, but Jesus gives us two sources of hope.

First, we have each other. The burden of salvation fell on Christ alone, but the burden of mission is shared. In John 17, Jesus prayed for our unity so that we might be effective in carrying out his work. We need each other, and we have each other. The Church is not just the people gathered in churches such as ours, but millions around the world. Together, Christians can accomplish great things if we follow the mission.

History shows what Christians can do when they proclaim, disciple, serve, seek justice, work for peace and care for creation. Lives have been transformed. Societies have been changed. Hope has taken root where there was none.

Second, God is with us. Just before today's passage, Jesus promises the coming of the Spirit – the power that will sustain and equip his people. At Pentecost, we will celebrate that gift. But even today, we remember that we do not carry the mission in our own strength. We have the Spirit of God within us.

Ascension may not feel easy to celebrate, yet it is a wonderful feast so perhaps and hopefully we will see a larger attendance on the 14th May. Our Father entrusts us with the mission of Christ. He gives us a community to sustain us and his Spirit to empower us.

### **Tim Cripps**

The mission of the Church is indeed the mission of Christ.

Recommended Readings: -

Ascension Day.

Acts 1:6-14;

John 17:1-11

# Organ Renovation *Charity Concert*

St. Paul's  
Church  
*Rusthall*

Wednesday 20th May ~  
8pm

*St Paul's Church*  
*Rusthall, TN4 8XD*

Music by *Holst, Britten, William Walton,*  
*John Williams* and many more...

Full performance by Bacchus Wind Orchestra

**Tickets – donations on the door**

Information  
Here



**BACCHUS**  
*Wind Orchestra*  
*Brynly Clarke, Conductor*



## A Musical Note



Thank you very much to everyone who attended and supported us at The Messiah on Easter Saturday. It was a wonderful evening and a fantastic way to start our fundraising for the Organ Renovation Fund. My sincere thanks go to the entire choir for their incredible dedication during rehearsals over the past couple of months. Balancing preparations for The Messiah alongside the music for our weekly services and an Evensong at Southwell Minster has been quite demanding. Fortunately, everyone remained good-humoured throughout, and I hope you enjoyed the performance as much as we did.

I would especially like to thank our soloists for all the extra work they undertook, as well as the instrumentalists. With violins, cello, trumpets, and timpani, the ensemble sounded fantastic. Some of the instrumental parts were extremely challenging, and the trumpet parts were ridiculously high; they must have been exhausted! Most importantly, I want to give special recognition to Alasdair on the organ, who played in every movement without a single break. He accompanied the soloists beautifully and sensitively and had to play some remarkably tricky passages in the choral sections. He was outstanding, and we are immensely grateful for his enormous contribution to the success of our Messiah concert.

Our fundraising concerts continue in May with two exciting events. First, the Bacchus Wind Orchestra will present a concert featuring varied symphonic wind repertoire on Wednesday 20th May at 8 pm. This is set to be a fabulous evening, and we are very grateful to them for performing in support of our cause. The second event is our choir's summer concert on Saturday 30th May at 6.30 pm. It promises to be a fun evening of choral music and solo performances from the young members of our choir. The orchestra will be dusting off their instruments and tuning up for another scratch performance, adding to the excitement! We have

some incredibly talented young performers in our choir, and I know you will enjoy seeing how much they have progressed since last year. We encourage every child who is taking lessons to perform, regardless of their current level. Performing is such an important part of learning music, yet sadly, many children have limited opportunities to do so.

I would like to highlight two remarkable performances I recently witnessed from our young singers. Firstly, Stella, who is sixteen, was invited to sing the Pie Jesu from Fauré's Requiem at a concert given by the 1839 Consort at St John's Church, Crowborough. She sang so beautifully that she moved members of the choir to tears! The audience could not stop applauding her at the end, and in a concert where the baritone soloist was the opera singer Jonathan Lemalu, she more than held her own.

The other remarkable performance was by Fergus, also sixteen, competing in the Passagio Masterclass for young singers. Judged by Linda Hirst, former head of vocal studies at Trinity Laban, Fergus sang beautifully and was completely at ease with pieces by Brahms and Haydn, even while competing against much older singers. Although he didn't win this time, I have a strong feeling that if he enters again, he has a very good chance of success!



### Friends Together Bereavement Support Group

Rusthall URC  
Last Friday of each Month  
Tea, biscuits and companionship

From 1.00pm - 2:30pm

[www.friendstogetherbs.org](http://www.friendstogetherbs.org)

Contact Steph Rose  
Mobile - 07950 737672  
or call into the Abbey Funerals Office  
31 High Street, Rusthall



# How to save your parish church

*Be the Church you want to see in the world*

By  
**Bijan Omrani**

(taken from *The Critic/Artillery Row*)

If you fancy passing a gloomy hour (more gloom, anyone?) you could do a lot worse than looking at the official C of E website of closed churches for sale (or the equivalent sites for Scotland or Wales).

As I write, there are 42 closed churches for sale in England alone. Medieval, gothic, Victorian, listed, the heart of rural villages, the site of burials, memorials, fine art, landmarks in their own right, the houses of God and the gates of Heaven — all under the hammer, some a snip at £50k, all ready to be stripped out, hot tub where the font once was, tasteful breakfast bar instead of the altar. Why not put in a mezzanine so that you can lie in a king-size water bed on Sunday mornings and contemplate close-up the pretty colours of the stained-glass windows, which were too complicated to replace?

Around 3,500 churches of all denominations have closed over the last 10 years, and a recent survey by the National Churches Trust suggests that another 2,000 might close by 2030. Bully for estate agents and property developers, less so for the practice of the faith that moulded the country over 1,400 years, the parishes which hold these ancient buildings as sites of memory, the resting places of their forbears, and gathering places for the living community.

But ah, you say, if only something could be done. If only someone could do something to stand against the steamroller of modernity. Who will stop this sacred and irreplaceable patrimony being flogged off by Foxtons for at best, luxury flats. Where are the saviours of the good, the beautiful and the true?

**The saviours, needless to say, are you, and people like you**

The saviours, needless to say, are you, and people like you. It is often not well understood that the management of parish churches relies not on clergy (now in very short supply) nor on the good offices of diocesan bureaucrats (now thriving) nor government officials or civil servants, but on local volunteers, who have to do all of the heavy work. 83% of churches told a recent survey by the National Churches Trust that the successful management of their buildings depends on an active body of volunteers. The average congregation needs an average of 265 volunteer hours a month for the church to function. However, 70% of them need more volunteers. The survey found that the

lack of volunteers had become an ever more acute problem over the last 15 years.

If it is cheering news to you that there is something you can do to stop the loss of your local church — a place which is likely dear to you, even if you do not attend services regularly, or at all — then you will probably want to know what you can actually do, and how you can get involved. These things are not always obvious.

I got involved with volunteering for my local church about eight years ago, even before I started attending regular services. I'd heard that they were trying to raise money to restore some of the windows, but were having difficulty. I attended one of the meetings of the volunteers and asked whether they had been able to apply for grant funding. They had not — they weren't sure where to apply, and found the paperwork daunting. There was my "in". Since I'd had a legal training, I was reasonably inured to bumph and paper-pushing. Before long, I found myself sitting on the Parochial Church Council (the PCC, the trustee body of the church, not to be confused with the secular Parish Council) as its secretary.

If you can paper push and are not daunted by forms and rule books, you will be treated as a godsend. Revelation may have the Scroll of the Seven Seals and the Book of Life, but the Church of England leaves these standing with its Electoral Roll returns and the Church Representation Rules. Can you churn out PCC minutes and navigate your way round the correspondence and demands for attendance data without which the diocese think you no more than an insubstantial "vision of the night"? Can you fill in the innumerable and intricate grant forms begging for cash to fix the windows and roof? You are needed. Do you have safeguarding training? Can you expound the hidden depths of safeguarding policies, and deal with the Star Trek-like diocesan dashboards which tell you if anything is lacking in your parish in this regard? You too are wanted.

Can you do numbers? The churches need their treasurers. St Matthew, patron saint of accountants and bankers, will look kindly on you. Can you count, and have muscles? Your bell-ringers need you — according to a recent survey, the tradition may die out here within 20 years. Can you warble, even a little? Join a church choir, or start one if there isn't. Tinkle on the ivories? Get to the church organ — nine are being ripped out every week, and the number in Britain may halve within 10 years.

Can you ply a lawnmower? The churchyard is yours, and all that therein is. A broom? The temple always needs to be kept cleansed, not just of money-lenders but also bat droppings and general fluff. Do you know about buildings? Can you deal with

damp, shimmy up the roof to clean the gutter to clean out the leaves (bearing in mind the church's working at heights policy, and the promise of the Psalmist that God will not allow your foot to slip), and speak comfortably to the boiler to stop it going "phut" in the middle of the carol service? There is room for you. What if you prefer holy oil to the stuff that you put in the outside tank? Can you deal with the oil of chrisem, bread, wine, sacred vessels? Can you master the colour rota for the altar cloths? There is work for you in the sanctuary.

Or are tea-cups and saucers more your thing than the paten and chalice? Can you work a kettle, bake a cake? There are people to be made welcome after services and in the week, and offered the lesser sacrament of cakes, biscuits, or on high-days, crisps. Beyond this, there are the wider acts of charity with which the churches strive to offer: youth groups, food banks, help for the homeless, mental health support, social circles. Over three-quarters of churches offer such help, says the National Churches Trust, and nearly half say they want to do more, but are held back by the lack of volunteers.

If you can dip into any of these things, are good at overseeing everything that goes on, calming down the vicar and the congregation in general, could take a service if you are short of clergy and don't mind carrying the legal or general can for whatever might arise, you could even be a church warden. It may be that as many as 20% of churches do not currently have wardens, and without them it is not easy for a parish church to function. They are the grandest of dogsbodies. The office dates back perhaps even to the 12th century, and they are the last vestige of the ancient parish elected officialdom, such as the parish constables and overseers of the poor. Tatters of that ancient grandeur still remain: they have ceremonial staffs to carry in church, and even have the power of arrest for anyone being a pest in the church and getting in the way of the vicar doing their duties.

And, superior even to the church wardens, are the flower arrangers.

These are some of the things that take place. But how to get involved? Church wardens generally need to go through a formal process of nomination and election at parish meetings, which are meant to take place before the end of May. PCC members also can be elected at these meetings, or coopted at other times of year. Whatever the case, if you think you can do any of these duties, from church-wardening to cake-making, get in contact with the vicar or anyone on the PCC. Say, like the Prophet Samuel, "Here I am" (even though he didn't to my knowledge, make any cakes, unlike other Old Testament characters). They will rejoice to hear

from you. Whoever you are, there will be something you can bring.

Granted, it is not always made easy. Not unreasonably, there may be DBS checks, and safeguarding training. There may be ecclesiastical bigwigs who take you for granted, or who prowl about trying to put pressure on parishes to surrender their independence in favour of ostentatious and expensive projects not rooted in the local community. You may be infuriated by the behaviour of the Church Commissioners, wanting to spend money on questionable reparations for slavery rather than cash-strapped churches. But in the current world, this must be borne, and you must act for the best — even if the Church Commissioners refuse. It is in your power, by God's grace, to bring life to your local church, to preserve an ancient patrimony that has been handed down to you through the work of many dedicated generations, to help keep your church open as a place of faith and Christian fellowship for all who need it, and to get to work with some very splendid people in the process. Biscuits, bumf and lawn-mowing are your gold, frankincense and myrrh. A willingness to muck in with "drudgery divine" will bless and keep your church out of the estate agents' clutches, safe for the generations to come.

[The above article was brought to the attention of the editors and it seemed apt to share it with you in the month of the APCM when we thank everyone for what they have done for the Parish in the prior year and elect officials for the upcoming year. If any of the article resonates with you and you think you might have some valuable skills you could share, do let someone know — many hands make light work! Ed]

## **Never believe everything you read in the Newspapers**

In a marmalade recipe for the Daily Mail, Pru Leith once advised readers to use 2tbs of black treacle. Unfortunately, she forgot to cross the "t" in her handwritten copy - and the paper was inundated with complaints from readers who had used two pounds of the stuff, and had ruined their saucepans. Worse still, the building had to be evacuated and the bomb squad called to defuse a suspicious "squishy" package which turned up at the Mail's office at the height of the IRA campaign in London. In fact, the suspicious package contained a lump of marmalade toffee, embedded in which was a dental brace with two teeth attached to it. Also enclosed was an enormous orthodontist's bill which the Mail were required to pay. The moral of the story is in the title.

**Tim Cripps**

01892 825505



# HENRY PAUL FUNERALS

*Contemporary and Traditional Services*

Henry Paul Funerals is a traditional family run funeral directors purposely dedicated to providing distinct levels of service, choice, dignity and care to bereaved families in Pembury, Tunbridge Wells and surrounding areas.

24 Hour Emergency Service • Home Visits • Private Chapel of Rest • Full Fleet of Modern & Vintage Vehicles • Floral Tributes • Catering • Memorial Masonry • Pre-paid Funeral Plans • Repatriation



10 High Street, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 4NY

[www.henrypaulfunerals.co.uk](http://www.henrypaulfunerals.co.uk)



## WELHAM JONES

An independent family owned company

Funeral Directors & Monumental Masons



For information or advice please contact either  
Simon Welham, Pam Pines or Jackie Fullerton on

**01892 300330**

39 Crescent Road, Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2 LZ



[www.welhamjones.co.uk](http://www.welhamjones.co.uk)

[tunbridgewells@welhamjones.co.uk](mailto:tunbridgewells@welhamjones.co.uk)



## Poems for May

In this hemisphere at least, the new life promised by Easter coincides with the vibrant springing of Spring - which can seem fuller and more riotous, and more welcome, with each passing year!

**Susan Barber**

### God's Grandeur

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.  
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;  
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil  
Crushed. Why do men, then, now not reck his rod?  
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;  
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;  
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil  
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;  
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;  
And though the last lights off the black west went  
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –  
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent  
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

*Gerard Manley Hopkins*

### In Time of Silver Rain

In time of silver rain  
The earth  
Puts forth new life again,  
Green grasses grow  
And flowers lift their heads,  
And over all the plain  
The wonder spreads  
Of life,  
Of life,  
Of life!

In time of silver rain  
The butterflies  
Lift silken wings  
To catch a rainbow cry,  
And trees put forth  
New leaves to sing  
In joy beneath the sky  
As down the roadway  
Passing boys and girls  
Go singing, too,  
In time of silver rain  
When spring  
And life  
Are new.

*Langston Hughes*

### Sap

Spring again.  
No denying the signs.  
Rates bill. Crocuses on cue.  
Daffodils rearing up  
Like golden puff-adders.

Open to the neck, voices  
Are louder. Unmuffled.  
The lid lifted off the sky.  
In the air, suddenly,  
A feeling of '*je sais quoi*'.

I take the dog into the park.  
Let myself off the lead.

*Roger McGough*

### Prayer

If you do not believe in God  
Go on a blue spring day across these fields:  
Listen to the orchids, race the sea, scent the wind.

Come back and tell me it was all an accident  
A collision of blind chance  
In the empty hugeness of space.

*Kenneth Steven*



Chris, Jim and Jo Parker - Our award winning family business

## Our award winning family service

### Let our family, care for your family

Your final farewell should respect your loved one's wishes and comfort those they leave behind. Our family has provided funeral services to families and friends in the Tonbridge area and surrounding villages and towns, for 40 years, we know this is a time when a caring family can make all the difference.

#### **Our promise to you:-**

- ▲ We understand your wishes and we're here to help
- ▲ Our emergency service is 24/7 and our phone is always answered personally
- ▲ We always provide itemised estimates
- ▲ We operate our own mortuary & private chapel of rest
- ▲ We're proud members of SAIF and BIFD
- ▲ Your family, not profit, is our main priority

**01732 360328**

173 High St, Tonbridge TN9 1BX

**01892 487144**

31 High Street, Rusthall, TN4 8RL

[www.abbeyfs.co.uk](http://www.abbeyfs.co.uk)



*Abbey Funeral Services is  
independently owned by Chris,  
Jim and Jo Parker.*

Your local family  
Funeral Directors



## A Beacon of Hope

Back in January I spent a very interesting morning at the Amelia Centre listening to a talk about The Beacon given by Anne Goldstein, who is a librarian, volunteer and Special Needs teacher. My personal experience of The Beacon is as pub and restaurant with a spectacular view; however, Anne told us of two occasions when The Beacon was handed over for much more important work, providing emergency accommodation for refugee children.

The Beacon was built in 1895 by Sir Walter Henry Harris as a private house, originally known as Rusthall Beacon, demolishing the house that originally stood on the site – Rock Cottage. The architect was Sir Robert Edis, who designed several prominent London buildings and extended Sandringham House for the royal family. Sir Walter sold the property to Col. Sydney Sladen in 1910, the year that he became Mayor of Tunbridge Wells. Colonel Sladen was an avid gardener who laid out 23 acres of gardens and stocked the lakes with trout. He was born in Burma, son of a high-ranking army officer, and brought the Burmese Bell back to the estate, though it has since been moved via the Calverley Grounds to the Town Hall. He died in 1921 but his widow continued to live at The Beacon until 1936.

By 1936 there was fierce fighting in Spain between Republicans loyal to the government of the Second Spanish Republic, sponsored by the Soviet Union and Mexico, and Nationalists which were an alliance of monarchists, conservatives and traditionalist sponsored by Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy. The conflict was used as a rehearsal for subsequent fighting in WW2, with experimental techniques tried out. Bombing of civilian areas was used for the first time and the Republicans started a process of evacuation of children, starting with the Basque area. In May 1937 the steam ship SS Habana, funded by the Trade Union Congress and Catholic Church, left for Southampton with nearly 4000 children on board in a space designed for 800. They came with priests, teachers and a small medical team.

Initially they were put in a camp in Eastleigh, where a farmer had lent fields and the army were paid for 500 tents to be provided. The children were very politically aware so the camp was segregated, but at least they were safe from bombing.

Two early women MPs, Katherine Duchess of Atholl and Dame Leah Manning, put their party differences aside and galvanised the British response, getting official permission for temporary stays, seeking private sponsorship for the children to pay for their stay and organising around 80 hostels,

called Colonia, to which the children were dispersed, in England, Wales and Scotland.

Our local response was spearheaded by Muriel Payne, director of St Christopher's Nursery College at Ravensdale on Pembury Road (now Willicombe Park). She bought The Beacon and then loaned it, free of charge, to house 60 children aged 5 – 12 years. Muriel Payne was a very progressive educator, already encouraging outdoor learning to promote wellbeing. She ensured that the children were very well looked after and employed a similarly innovative Margaret May Blackwell from New Zealand, who was experienced with nursery education, to be the matron. Money was tight but locals gave donations of food and the children put on demonstrations of dancing to raise funds for their keep. The children stayed until March 1938, when most returned to Spain, but a few were orphaned or had forgotten Spanish and a permanent stay in the UK was arranged.

As the Spanish Civil War spun on into WW2, the German Nazi party started their systematic destruction of those they considered undesirable. Bertha Bracey was a Quaker who had worked in Vienna to found youth groups, which made her a fluent German speaker. She visited Berlin just after the pogrom of Kristallnacht in 1938 and was then part of a delegation which met with Home Secretary Sir Samuel Hoare to beg him to accept more Jewish children as refugees from Germany. He agreed but each child needed a £50 guarantee which was supposed to pay for their eventual return. The modern equivalent of this sum is around £4,000, so only children from wealthy families were able to come.

The Beacon was again turned into a hostel for German and Austrian refugees. Because there was government sponsorship they were looked after by paid staff rather than volunteers but due to war hardship there was less in the way of local assistance. Considering that the children were legally considered to be 'enemy aliens' the local population were not overtly antisemitic or anti-German/Austrian. Some of the children stayed at The Beacon right through to 1950, as they had nowhere else to go. They worked locally when old enough.

If you would like to hear more about the Beacon's war efforts, you might like to attend the May meeting of the Church Youth Council on 7<sup>th</sup> May, 6-7.30pm in the Lodge, when Anne Goldstein will be guest speaker. Adults are allowed but please let Angela Culley know if you plan to be there. You might also like to visit the display of artifacts at the Amelia History of Tunbridge Wells Room.

**Deborah Bruce**

## Home Life in New Testament Times

### Part 4

In the First Century women had all sorts of pins and brooches, nail-files and forceps for plucking out superfluous hair. Even an ornamental back scratcher for perhaps getting rid of an unwelcome visitor under one's clothes has been found. We also know that umbrellas and sunshades were in use. The sunshades were not only used in the garden but also in the amphitheatre where awnings did not effectively keep off the hot rays of the Mediterranean sun. It is difficult to understand how they could have been used without blocking the view of the other spectators – unless very long handles were fitted to them.

Some dog-collars with the names of the owners have been found. These would not have belonged to the Jewish population but to Romans living in Palestine. We know that the Romans did keep and breed a variety of dogs, some of them for sporting purposes, however only puppies - kept as children's pets – were allowed by the Jews.

Overall costume in the 1<sup>st</sup> century might have been rather like 20<sup>th</sup> century Indian costume. Men often appeared to wear loose garments, frequently draped over one shoulder. They did not appear to use sleeves, buttons, collars, cuffs or trousers. Although we do know that soldiers in the Roman army wore the equivalent of trousers or shorts. These shorts were known as braccæ. Headgear was probably rather like that worn by Bedouin Arabs today - this is a Kaffiyeh - a piece of cloth about a yard square



of either cotton, linen or silk – folded diagonally and laid on the head so as to screen the eyes and protect cheek bones and the nape of the neck, and held in place by a ring of some corded material. Some would possibly wear something like a modern Fez. However, strict Jews certainly objected to wearing Gentile headgear.

Like today weather determined clothing to some extent in that linen would be worn in summer and woollen in winter. The great tallith, which has now become the proper vestment in the synagogue, was the originally the normal head-scarf and to show one's 'Jewishness' it was compulsory to put it on in addition to one's other clothes and this is still done today. If you wear a 'top hat' as some London Jews do today you drape the tallith over your shoulder.

The Talmud also gives directions as to the order in which the garments were to be removed in order to take a bath. We do know that the Jews of the Talmud adopted one Roman custom - that of

always putting on and removing the right sandal first - a genuinely superstitious practice.

The ordinary people of Palestine - who would have been the labourers or agricultural workers – were on the whole not very strictly orthodox Jews in their habits either as regards dress or the eating of kosher food or even keeping holy days. Their costume consisted of five items - a long cotton shirt, a leather or stiff girdle worn round the waist, a head-dress, shoes or sandals, and a cloak made either of goat's or camel's hair, or some sort of coarse sackcloth. This cloak had no girdle and varied slightly in pattern - either it was a heavy sleeveless cloak worn for protection against rain and cold and used as a coverlet during sleep or a long-sleeved overcoat. In general, the long-sleeved coat was the mark of officials, priests and the wealthier and more educated person.



The cotton shirt varied a good deal in pattern. In a sense it was like a nightshirt without sleeves. Sometimes it was little more than a waist cloth, leaving the upper part of the body bare, but wrapped tightly round the loins and reaching to the knees. This would be worn by fishermen and outdoor labourers and

anyone wearing it would technically be called 'naked' as Peter is mentioned in John 21 v7.

A larger form of this was a plain sheet wound round the body with one end flung over the shoulder and worn with or without a girdle. This should remind us of the young man, who was captured in the Garden of Gethsemane by police, but wriggled out of their clutches. Sometimes it was divided into two parts from the belt down and sewn up providing the wearer with a pair of loose, baggy trousers.

The girdle served several purposes. It provided above the tunic a sort of waist bag in which objects could be carried such as food. There might be a sword or dagger, or in the case of a scribe, a case holding reed pens, and a box or ink-horn for writing fluid. In a hot, dusty country, a scarf or napkin used to keep the collar of a garment from being soiled by perspiration and was also used to wipe the face and the back of the hands.

The 'small tallith' – the undergarment with its tassels, was directed to be worn by every male Jews next to the shirt. It was of purplish-blue cotton and had four tassels. It seems to have been regarded as a solemn badge or sign of separation of the Jews

from the rest of humanity. The 'large tallith' seen today only as a prayer shawl worn by Jews in the synagogues, was a piece of white cotton or wool about two yards square, with a black border or stripes, and a cord attached with eight threads and five knots, symbolising the number of the commandments in the Law or Torah.

The dress of women so much resembled that of men as to make interchange of garments possible. The two chief differences seem to be that women's garments were more elaborate and brightly coloured, while the head-dress was different. This consisted mainly of a large veil of varying pattern. The veil of a widow would be black – for other women it would be white.



Sandals, whether Jewish or Gentile, were usually flat soles of leather, wood or dried grass with loops attached and with a leather thong passed through the loops to keep them strapped to the feet. For indoor use, slippers of black or coloured leather would be in use, but certainly going barefoot indoors would often be the case.

**Daphne Pilcher**

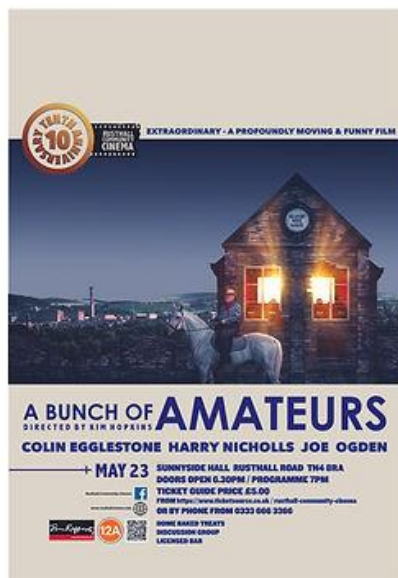


## Rusth Community Cinema



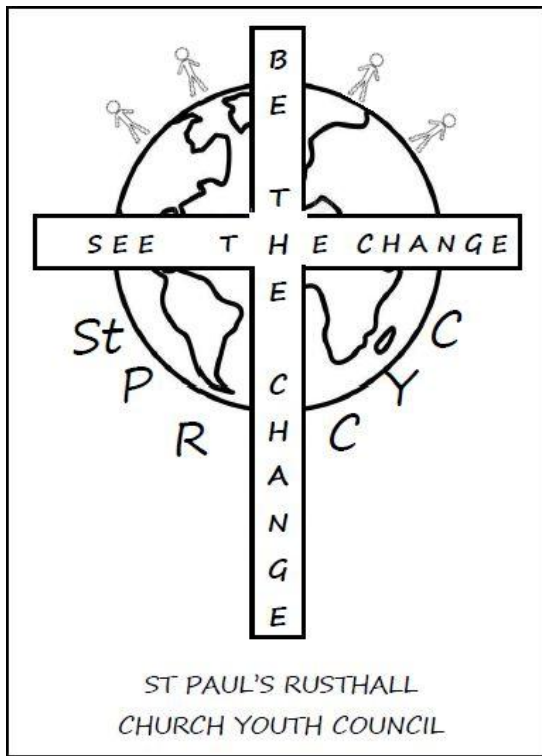
### **Jane Austen wrecked my life (2024) Cert 15**

Doors open: 6.30pm Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May  
 Directed by: Laura Piani  
 Genre: Comedy, Romance  
 Runtime: 1hr 34 mins  
 Starring: Camille Rutherford, Pablo Pauly, Charlie Anson



### **A Bunch of Amateurs (2022) Cert 12A**

Doors open: 6:30pm Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> May  
 Director: Kim Hopkins  
 Genre: Documentary, comedy  
 Runtime: 1hr 35 mins  
 Starring: Colin Egglestone, Harry Nicholls, Joe Ogden



It is said 'Every Picture tells a Story!'

That statement is certainly true for the Youth Council this month as they met in Tunbridge Wells for a session at PaintnGo. Huge fun was had by all. Working with professional artists they took a Youth Council theme and somehow, amidst much chat, laughter and fun they created an extraordinary mural reflecting their activities. Harry in sunglasses and Jean's famous brownies took pride of place. Needless to say not all the paint found its way to the walls! Huge thanks go to Jean for the wonderful food bags - not a crumb was left at PaintnGo! The session ended in style with neon and fluorescent paint and lights which were highly effective. It was fantastic to see our teenagers so relaxed, communicative and simply enjoying each other's company.

Next meeting: Thursday 7th May in The Lodge 6-7.30. We look forward to welcoming Anne Krisman Goldstein who will be telling the extraordinary story of The Beacon as a place of refuge and safety for both the Basque children and the Kindertransport.

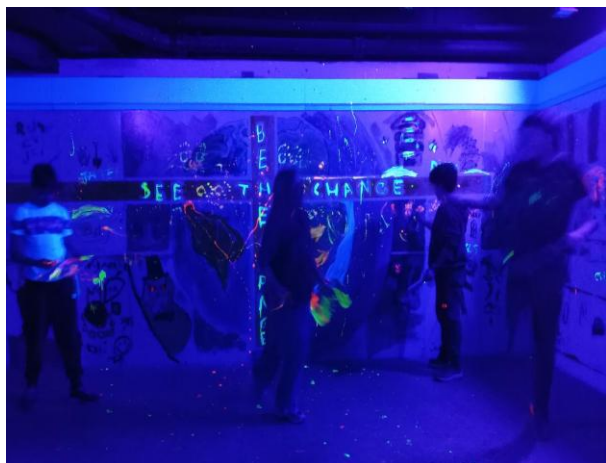
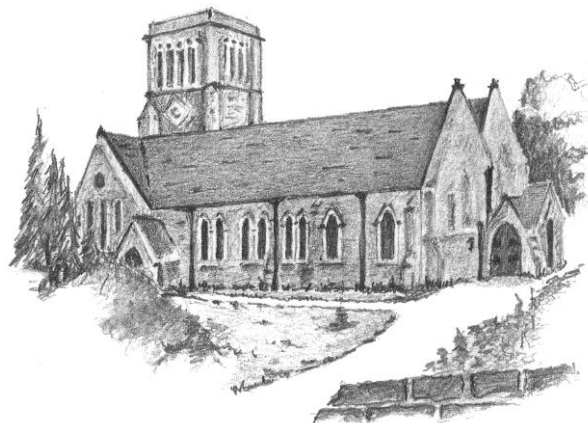
New members are always welcome and Year 6 children can now join us as they prepare for secondary school.

For further information please contact either Jean Kerr on [st.pauls.cyc@gmail.com](mailto:st.pauls.cyc@gmail.com). Angela Culley on [culley.angela@yahoo.com](mailto:culley.angela@yahoo.com)





# ST PAUL'S 100 CLUB



NUMBERS  
£10 PER MONTH

MONTHLY  
PRIZES

£100 1<sup>ST</sup>  
£ 60 2<sup>ND</sup>  
£ 40 3<sup>RD</sup>



Numbers still available from  
Chris Dobson on 07757 680165

WINNING NUMBERS IN APRIL  
WERE  
29 (£100), 18 (£60) AND 51 (£40)



### MR JOLLY CHIMNEY SWEEP

27 Apsley Street, Tunbridge Wells, TN4 8NU

Tel: 01892 618324 Mobile: 07752 130577

**Honest Reliable Friendly Service**  
Free Smoke Test, Certificate Issued  
*No Mess, No Fuss*

## Where there's a will There's a way to help St Paul's

Please help us to preserve the church buildings  
and ministry by leaving a legacy to St Paul's  
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 2026 (April to October) are available  
from £700 - £910 per week depending on time of year**

Please call 01892 528538 or email  
karen\_miller\_2@hotmail.co.uk  
for more information.



Your local independent Estate Agent  
...contactable 7 days a week

**We are your local family run  
Estate Agents  
based in Rusthall High Street**

**We offer a good, personal and  
professional service with  
competitive fees and flexible  
contract terms.**

**Call us today for a FREE Market  
appraisal**

**01892 515188**  
**sales@kmjproperty.co.uk**



## Magazine Easy Payment Methods

Income from magazine sales is important to us at St Paul's. If everyone paid the £1 cover charge we would raise over £900 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!) Please make cheques payable to St Paul's Church, Rusthall and send them to the Parish Office.

Alternatively you can use the card payment machines – just choose the £1 donation option.

Your contributions are much appreciated.

## Activity Pages

### Twenty Questions to Test You

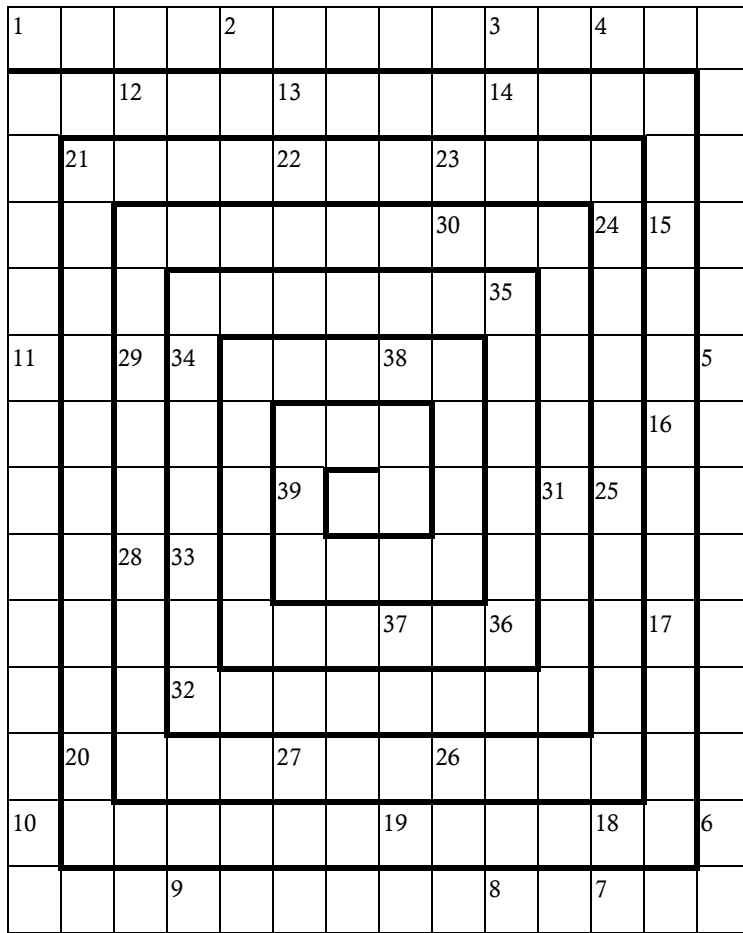
1. A fishy name that also means to mislead
2. Another name for Rubella
3. Which Premier Football club plays at Turf Moor
4. What was the former name of Sri Lanka
5. Who was the last British monarch to lead troops into battle
6. At which castle in the Highlands is 'Traitors' filmed
7. Name the three books in the Bible beginning with the letter R
8. Where are the British Crown jewels kept
9. Erica and Ling are other names for what plant
10. How is Baron Carrickfergus better known
11. Which US president has had the shortest term of office
12. Which is the only city in the world to have hosted both the summer and winter Olympic Games
13. Which European city's airport is named after the explorer Marco Polo
14. Which wildflower is also known as Knapweed
15. Which football team is known by the nickname 'The Magpies'
16. What is the former name of the Democratic Republic of Congo
17. Which country's flag – the oldest in existence – apparently fell from the sky during a battle in 1219
18. Of which British ship was Robert Fitzroy captain
19. What links the Royal House of the Kings of Italy and the name of a variety of cabbage
20. What is symbolized on a weather map by a line with semicircles on it

### All Creatures Great and Small

A crossword with a difference where the last letter of one answer is the first of the next

#### Clues

1. A black and white striped African horse
2. Found in South America and valued for their wool
3. A very common insect
4. Known for their long life – often kept as pets
5. Has the nickname Dumbo
6. Amphibian with a dry, warty skin
7. Common pet descended from a wolf
8. Largest primate – found in equatorial Africa
9. British poisonous snake
10. Animal connected with Father Christmas
11. Common in the UK – this creature lives in a burrow in muddy sea beds
12. Small creature with velvety fur which spends much of their time underground
13. Large bird of prey
14. Insect whose name sounds as if it has connections with hearing and hair
15. Small flying insect which will bite both humans and animals
16. These birds might be blue, great or long-tailed
17. Fish often connected with the film Jaws
18. Australian animal often considered cuddly
19. Shy, elusive creature, native to Africa, which exists on a diet of ants and termites
20. This bird's name sounds as if he is both monarch and angler
21. Bird associated with the Tower of London
22. He belongs to the Salamander family
23. Large member of the cat family found in Asia with black stripes
24. Bird associated with Christmas
25. This bird's name is made up of a fruit in a hard case and a hen producing baby chicks
26. Bird of prey typically taking prey by surprise with a short chase
27. A type of small falcon
28. Baby sheep
29. This bird was baked in a pie according to the nursery rhyme
30. A type of whale well known for its sociable nature and high intelligence
31. According to the old song, this bird sang in Berkeley Square
32. Snake-like fish
33. This bird sounds as if it is having a prank
34. A large leaping animal of Australia
35. Fish eating bird
36. Type of ox found in the Himalayas
37. Another name for the Orca
38. A very common soil dwelling creature often found in the garden
39. Small to medium sized primate with a long tail

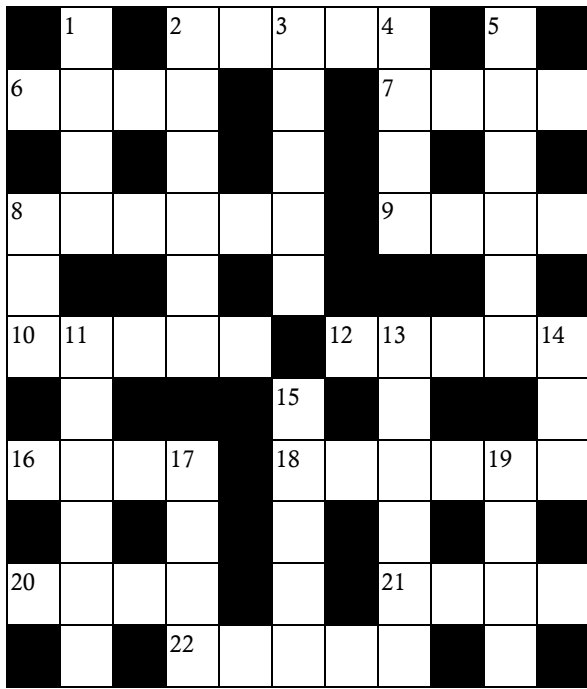


A Word Search based around things to do with the Christian faith. The words are written forwards, backwards and diagonally. At the end you should be left with 9 unused letters which will give you the name of a well-loved Christian festival.

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

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| ADVENT        | ALB          |
| ALTAR         | APSE         |
| ARCHBISHOP    | ASCENSIONDAY |
| CHOIR         | CREED        |
| CROSS         | EASTER       |
| EPIPHANY      | EWER         |
| FONT          | HOLYWEEK     |
| INCENSE       | LECTERN      |
| LENT          | MASS         |
| METHODIST     | NUN          |
| ORGAN         | PEW          |
| PRIEST        | PULPIT       |
| RITE          | ROODSCREEN   |
| ROSARYBEADS   | SACRISTAN    |
| SALVATIONARMY | STALL        |
| STOLE         | TRINITY      |
| VICAR         | VOW          |
| WAFER         | WARDEN       |

## General Crossword



### Clues Across

2. Versatile colour often used for camouflage

6. A senior official of the Church of England
7. Small, loose particles of stone
8. Persistent bargaining
9. Religious act
10. Part of the face surrounded by lips
12. Wed
16. Stratford's river
18. Say again
20. Flesh of young calf
22. Restrict

### Clues Down

1. Huge
2. A piece in a game of Chess
3. Heavenly being who is a messenger of God
4. First name of Russian composer Stravinsky
5. Slang name for a mat used to perch on
8. Meat from a pig
11. General summary of a subject
13. A particular feature of something
14. Up until the present
15. Off white
17. Zero
19. A person who supports someone

From the humble streets of rural Argentina to the glittering heights of fame and power, *Evita* tells the true story of Eva Perón – the woman who became a myth, a movement and a mystery.

Driven by fierce ambition and unshakable charm, young Eva Duarte fought her way from poverty to the presidential palace, capturing the hearts of a nation and defying the world's expectations. To her people, she was a saint. To her critics, a scandal. But to history – she remains unforgettable.

With Andrew Lloyd Webber's chart-topping score – featuring the iconic "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" – this multi-award-winning musical bursts with passion and power.

A tale of glamour, politics, and the ultimate price of fame, *Evita* invites you to experience the triumph and tragedy of a woman who dared to dream beyond her destiny.

BSL Signed Performance Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Times: 7.30pm every night (plus 2.30pm Wed & Sat)

Prices: All Tickets: £25.00 (or book through Paul Barter 01892 530937 to pay only £22 per ticket)

## ANSWERS

### Twenty questions to test you

1. Red herring
2. German measles
3. Burnley
4. Ceylon
5. George II
6. Ardross Castle
7. Ruth Romans Revelations
8. Tower of London
9. Heather
10. Prince William/Prince of Wales
11. William Henry Harrison
12. Beijing
13. Venice
14. Cornflower
15. Newcastle
16. Zaire
17. Denmark
18. HMS Beagle
19. Savoy
20. Warm Front

### All Creatures Great and Small

1. Zebra
2. Alpaca
3. Ant
4. Tortoise
5. Elephant
6. Toad
7. Dog
8. Gorilla
9. Adder
10. Reindeer
11. Ragworm
12. Mole
13. Eagle
14. Earwig
15. Gnat
16. Tits
17. Shark
18. Koala
19. Aardvark
20. Kingfisher
21. Raven
22. Newt
23. Tiger
24. Robin
25. Nuthatch
26. Hawk
27. Kestrel
28. Lamb
29. Blackbird
30. Dolphin
31. Nightingale
32. Eel
33. Lark
34. Kangaroo
35. Osprey
36. Yak
37. Killer whale
38. Earthworm
39. Monkey

### Wordsearch

The 9 unused letters spell Christmas

### General Crossword

Across

2. Khaki
6. Dean
7. Grit
8. Haggle
9. Rite
10. Mouth
12. Marry
16. Avon
18. Repeat
20. Calf
22. Limit

Down

1. Mega
2. Knight
3. Angel
4. Igor
5. Sitter
8. Ham
11. On view
13. Aspect
14. Vet
15. Cream
17. Null
19. Ally

Daphne Pilcher



**BLACKHAM VILLAGE HALL**

**QUIZ NIGHT**

**SATURDAY 23 MAY 2026**

**TEAMS OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE** | **TICKETS £12 EACH TO INCLUDE SUPPER** | **DOORS OPEN 6.30 QUIZ TO START AT 7PM**

**LICENSED BAR (CASH & CARD)** | **RAFFLE**

Tickets from Ruth ☎ 07890 303791

The poster features a dark blue background with white and yellow text. It includes illustrations of lightbulbs with question marks and two stylized figures at the bottom. The text is arranged in a clear, bold layout, providing all necessary details for the event.

## General Information

<b>Vicar</b> Rev. Ronnie Williams, The Vicarage, Bretland Road, Rusthall	521357
<b>Associate Priest</b> Rev. Nicholas Burton (c/o Parish Office)	521447
<b>Reader</b> Daphne Pilcher	521691
<b>Licensed Lay Minister</b> Tim Harrold	07413805814
<b>Churchwardens</b> May Graves Chris Dobson	gravesmay7@gmail.com 539539
<b>Deputy Churchwarden</b> Graeme Anderson	532922
<b>Parochial Church Council Secretary</b> Mione Palmer	667951
<b>Youth Council</b> Angela Culley	07779 098026
<b>Treasury and Planned Giving</b> PCC Finance subcommittee c/o the Parish Office	521447
<b>Safeguarding Officers</b> Daphne Pilcher	521691
<b>DBS Officer</b> Clive Brown c/o the Parish Office	521447
<b>Bible Reading Fellowship Secretary</b> Vivienne Sharp	543263
<b>Choir Leader</b> Fiona Johnson	07540 273303
<b>Magazine Editors</b> Deborah Bruce and Sue Hare c/o the Parish Office email – magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk	
<b>Flower Team</b> Jill McAllister	532817
<b>Parish Hall Bookings</b> <b>Churchyards</b> Enquiries to Parish Office	521447
<b>Rusthall St Paul's Primary School</b> Executive Headteacher – Mrs Liz Mitchell Head of School – Mrs Lyndsay Smurthwaite	520582 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

<b>Julian Group</b> Pat Stevens	529187
<b>Group Scout Leader</b> Gavin Cons Email – rusthallscoutgroup@gmail.com	
<b>Scout Membership Secretary</b> Juliet Waller Email – <a href="mailto:rusthallscoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk">rusthallscoutgroupwaitinglist@yahoo.co.uk</a>	
Squirrels: rusthallsquirrels@gmail.com Beavers: beaversrusthall@gmail.com Cubs: rusthallcubs@hotmail.co.uk Scouts: rusthallscouts@gmail.com	
<b>Ranger Guides</b> Gemma Bradley	07377 061398
<b>Guides</b> Gemma Bradley	07377 061398
<b>Brownie Guides</b> Karen Miller (Thurs) rusthallbrownies@btinternet.com Tina Francis (Mon)	545877
<b>Rainbows</b> Liz Mankelow	07840 837968
<b>Playtime at St Paul's</b> Liz Mankelow	07840 837968
<b>Rusthall Lunch Club</b> Helen Foster Richard Brook	01892 535159 01892 862677
<b>Rusthall Community Larder</b> Bjorn Simpole	07900 906294
<b>Rusthall Community &amp; Youth Project</b> Barry Edwards	680296
<b>Rusthall Village Association</b> Alex Britcher	07967 011467
<b>Rusthall Parish Council</b> Council Clerk: Alison Stevens	520161
<b>Rusthall Bonfire and Fete Committee</b> Annie Softley	548366
<b>Friends of TW and Rusthall Common</b> Roger Barton rogerbarton@gmail.com	524795



## **The Parish Office**

Parish Administrator - **Mrs Helen Reynolds**

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

Telephone (01892) 521447

*Registered Charity in England & Wales, Number 1132681*

Office email: [office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:office@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

Magazine email: [magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

Website: [www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk](http://www.stpaulsrusthall.org.uk)

**The Office is open on weekday mornings (except Tuesdays) between 9 am and 2 pm.**